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Interior & Arctic Alaska

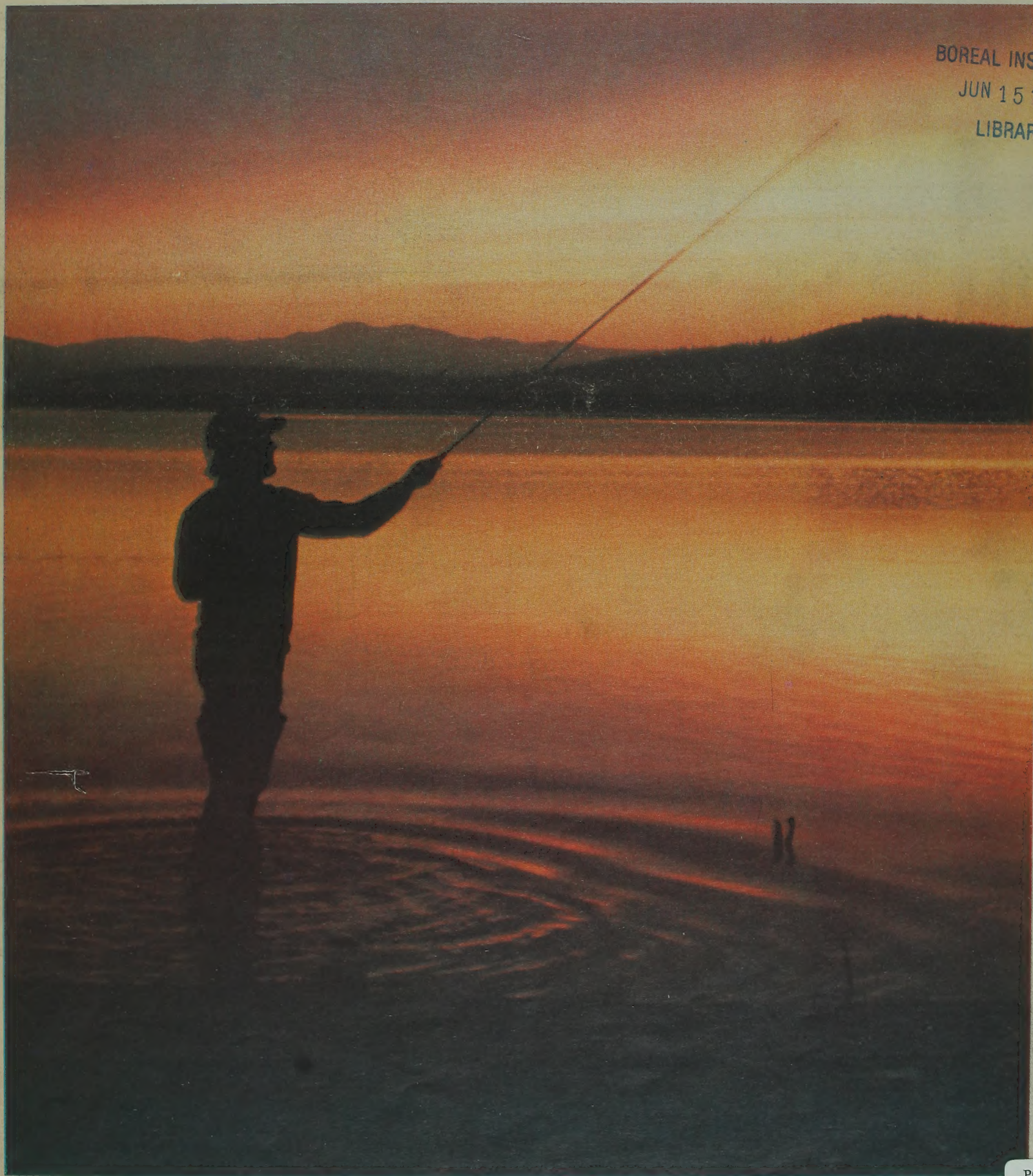
# VISITORS GUIDE

No. 1, 1983

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**Midnight fishing at Quartz Lake near Delta Junction**

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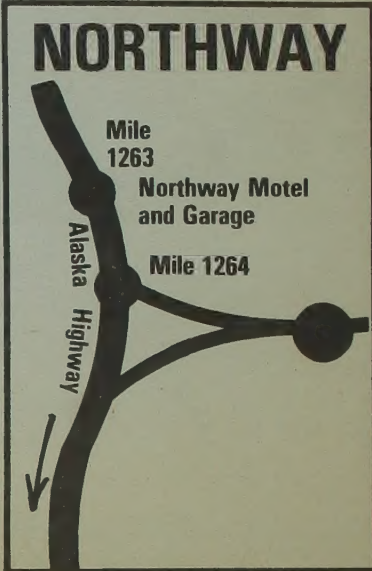
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### About our cover

Peter K. Ziminski of Fairbanks was among the winners of the second annual photo contest sponsored by the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau, Alaska Airlines and the Daily News-Miner for this beautiful photo of a fisherman taking advantage of Alaska's summer daylight at Quartz Lake near Delta Junction about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks.

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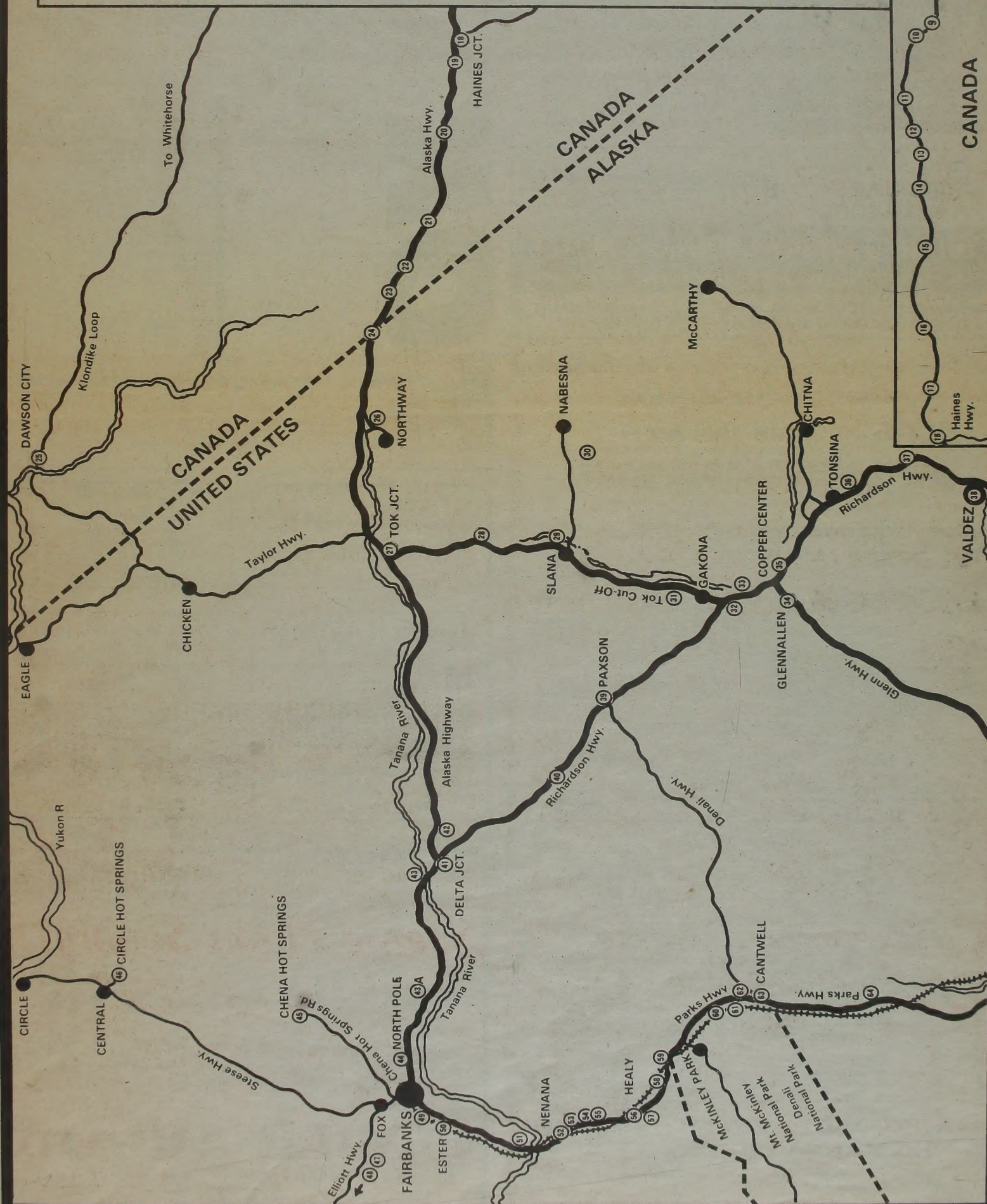
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**ROUGH ROAD**—The Alaska Highway often turned to quicksand during the road's early days. Canadian and U.S. crews have made vast improvements since this photo was taken during the war. *Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

## Tok is first popular stop in 49th state

By **PAULETTE HUMPHREY**  
Correspondent

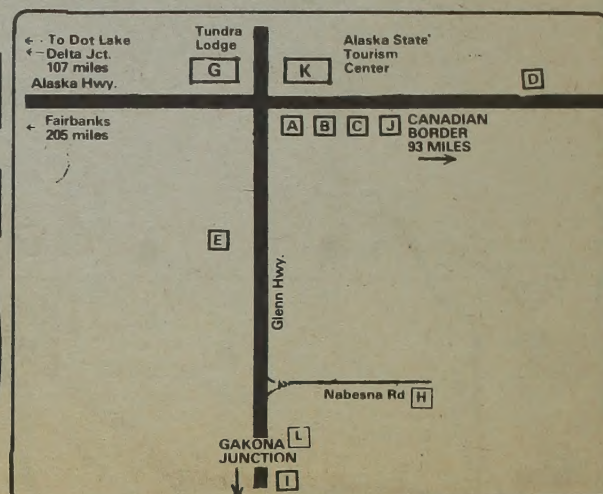
**TOK**—Tok is the gateway to Alaska, the first sizable community on the Alaska Highway after the Canadian border. It is located at the junction of the Alaska and Glenn Highways, 93 miles from the border, 205 miles from Fairbanks and 328 miles from Anchorage.

Tok is in a broad river valley heavily timbered with spruce, aspen and birch and bordered by the majestic Alaska Range.

The town was formed as a camp for the Alaska Road Commission for the construction of the Alaska and Glenn Highways between 1942 and 1946.

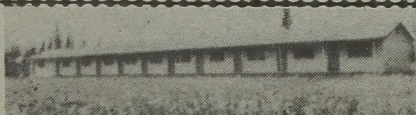
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# TOK



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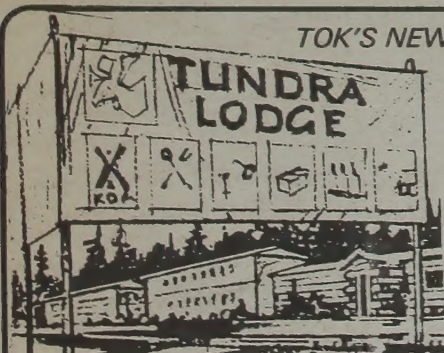
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**DALL SHEEP**—What you think may be a speck of snow way overhead may not be what you think. Dall Sheep are high living animals which can be seen in many parts of the state. From May until mid-June you may spot some on the south slopes above the mountains on the Tok Cut-off outside of Tok.

(Alaska Department of Fish and Game photo)

## TOK . . .

(Continued from page 4)

There are several stories as to how it got its name. Take your pick of the following:

One version says the name came from an Athabaskan Indian word, "Toku," for the Tok River. Another is that Tok is a shortened version of Tokyo, which was what a nearby river was called before it was shortened to Tok River during World War II. Some Athabascans believe that the name Tok, was derived from the first three letters of the name of an old trapper.

Finally, some insist the name was taken from an aerial map drawn by the highway department when road officials flew over the junction to check the intersection, marking the "T" and "OK" make it look like "TOK."

However it got its name, the town is a service area for tourists, travelers and residents of the area. There are several private carrier bus services that provide summer transportation to Fairbanks, Anchorage, Haines, Whitehorse and Skagway.

In addition to highway and air transportation, there are trail and waterway networks that many people use for trapping, snowmobiling, travel by sled dogs and boating.

The 20-mile sled dog trail used during the Annual Race of Champions is one of the finest in North America.

The town also has numerous businesses that provide rest, recreation and fuel for highway travelers.

Special events include gold panning, sled dog rides, square dancing,

For more information and free coffee, stop at the Tok visitors center in the dog musher's hall. It's about one mile east of the junction with the Glenn Highway. Phone 883-5612.

movies and more.

The best recreation Tok has to offer is the great outdoors. Many Tok residents are avid hunters and fishermen.

During the fall and winter the area yields moose, caribou, dall sheep, bear, rabbit, ptarmigan and grouse. There is also good fishing for whitefish, burbot, grayling, pike and salmon in streams in Glennallen and Eagle.

Dall Sheep may be seen with binoculars or the naked eye from May to mid-June on the south slopes of the mountains from Milepost 105 to 81 on the Tok Cut-off or the Glenn Highway.

Tok is a trade center for several Athabaskan villages and you can find birch baskets, beaded moccasins, boots and beaded necklaces in many gifts and shops around Tok.

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See Page 43

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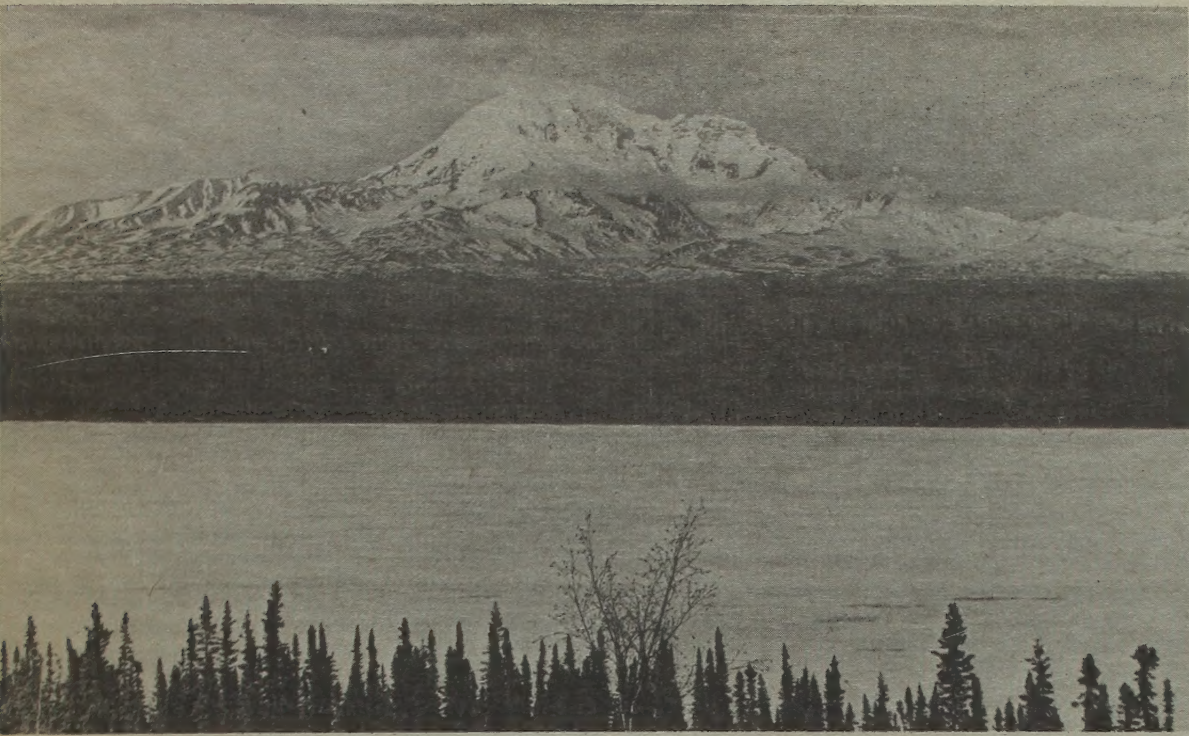
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**MOUNTAIN VIEW**—The Richardson Highway from Fairbanks to Valdez affords many spectacular sights such as the snow-capped peak of Mount Drum in the Wrangell Mountains, which towers over Willow Lake. This photograph was taken near Mile 87 north of Valdez.

(News-Miner file photo)

# Gold seekers first traveled Richardson

When you drive along the Richardson Highway, the road which connects Fairbanks to the port of Valdez, you are retracing a route which began as a trail for gold stampedeers in 1898.

Later converted to a wagon road, the Richardson saw its first automobile traffic in 1913 when the late Bobby Sheldon of Fairbanks drove a Model T to the Interior city from the coast. In 1905, Sheldon, who had never seen a car before, built one from scratch. He used a photograph that he had seen in a popular science magazine to plan the car. Alaska's first automobile is now on display at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks.

Much of the early work on the road to Valdez was under the direction of Gen. Wilds P. Richardson, the first president of the Alaska Road Commission. The road commission upgraded the highway to automobile standards in the 1920s and finished paving the highway in 1957.

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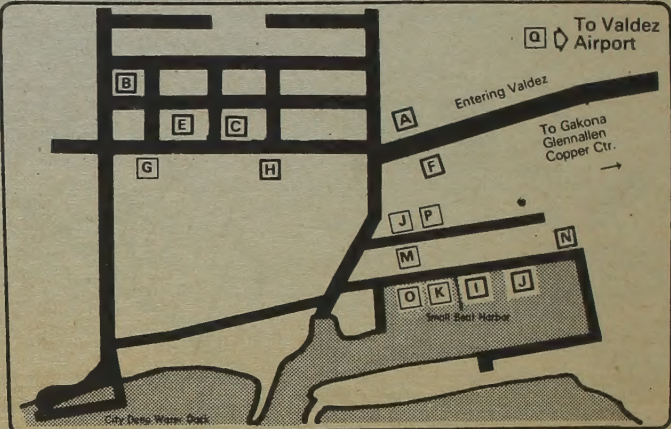
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VALDEZ



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## Copper River Basin

# Volcanic peaks scrape the sky

### The Valdez Vanguard

GLENNALLEN—The Copper River Basin, located along the southern leg of the Richardson Highway, is rich with history from Glennallen to Chitina.

Seen for miles around are the noticeable Wrangell Mountains which form the largest concentration of volcanic peaks 14,500 feet tall in the United States. In fact, fumaroles can sometimes be seen coming out of Mount Wrangell.

Native to the area are the Ahtna Indians, one of the last Athabascan Indian tribes to cross the land bridge from Siberia more than 10,000 years ago on their migration south. About a fourth of the people currently living in the area are Ahtna Indians, most of them situated near Copper Center.

One of the major summer events for the Glennallen area, at Mile 115 of the Richardson Highway, is the Fourth of July festival put on by the local Lions Club at the Little League field.

Further south, signs near Copper Center point to two historic sights—the Copper Center Lodge, which was the first roadhouse built north of Valdez, and the oldest surviving log chapel of the area.

Further down the Richardson, near Mile 83, travelers shouldn't pass by the Edgerton Highway turnoff.

The largest event of that area in the summer is the annual Kenny Lake Fair, slated this year from August 20-21. The fair includes livestock and vegetable displays as well as sewing and cooking contests.

Continuing down the Edgerton, travelers can reach the quaint town of Chitina at Mile 35.

Lake trout are almost as abundant as the many campsites. Hiking is another popular sport for travelers to the area.

Salmon are available for Alaskan residents who obtain subsistence permits from the state Department of Fish and Game to dip net or scoop up the fish in fish wheels.



**OLD LODGE**—The Copper Center Lodge had its beginnings as the Blix Roadhouse during the Gold Rush. The first lodging place in the Copper River Valley, it was replaced by the Copper Center Lodge in 1928. Highway signs near Copper Center on the Richardson Highway point to the log structure, which is still operating. The Copper Valley Historical Society is renovating the lodge's bunkhouse for a museum. Some 47 miles north of Copper Center you find the Sourdough Roadhouse, the oldest operating roadhouse in Alaska. The roadhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It opened for business in 1903.

(News-Miner file photo)

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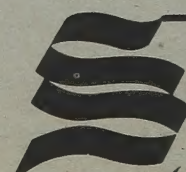
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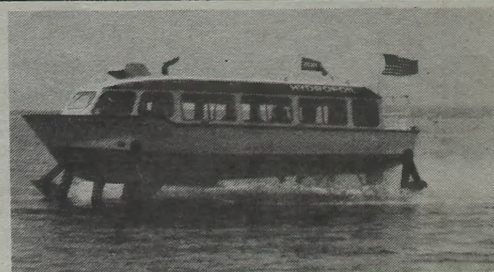
Thrill to a beautiful marine sightseeing tour of  
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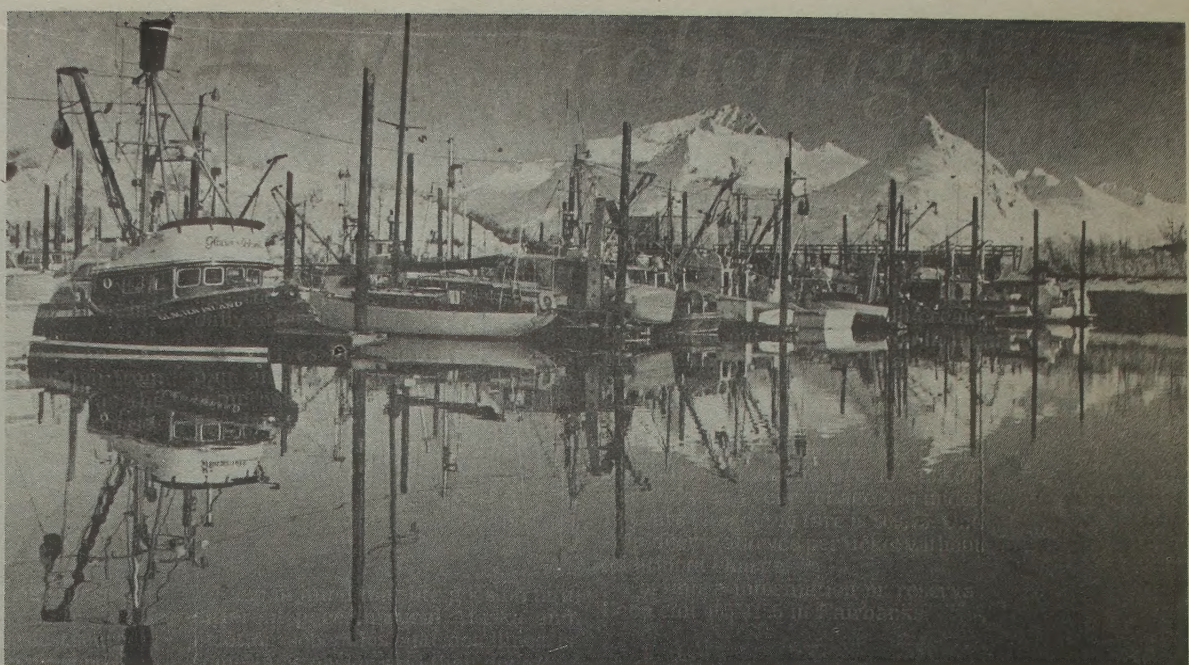
# Oil and water mix in Valdez

**The Valdez Vanguard**

About 360 miles south of Fairbanks down the Richardson Highway lies Valdez (pronounced VAL-DEEZ)—a land of waterfalls, majestic Chugach Mountains and the deep waters of Prince William Sound.

Valdez was moved and rebuilt in its present location after the old town was destroyed in the 1964 earthquake. New additions to the town, which has been twice named an All-American City, include the world's largest floating dock, a grain terminal which may one day be used to export grain from the Delta area, and a \$7 million civic center which adds a touch of glamour to the town.

To learn more, stop by the Chamber of Commerce visitor information center at the Valdez small boat harbor or call 835-2330. It is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.



**READY TO GO**—Fishing and pleasure boats sit side-by-side in the Valdez small boat harbor. Sugarloaf Mountain stands majestically in the background. (News-Miner file photo)

Most visitors to Valdez come to fish for salmon in Prince William Sound or take a boat tour to the Columbia Glacier, which lies west of the town. New this year is a 35-foot hydrofoil. Floating raft adventures also are available. All sorts of charter services offer both fishing and sight-seeing trips.

If you travel to Whittier on the state ferry system, you'll also get a closeup look at the glacier.

For those on foot, an impressive seven-mile hike up Mineral Creek Canyon leads to a historic stamp mill which was built in 1913 to extract gold from ore. Before the precious metal was discovered near the town, Valdez

was a stopping-off point for prospectors on their way to the Klondike area during the gold rush.

Historical films are shown nightly in the civic center and two museums, the Valdez Heritage Center and Archives Alive, welcome visitors.

An information booth outside the gates of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. offers information about the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, which terminates in Port Valdez.

City, state and Forest Service campground sites are available in and around Valdez.

For sport enthusiasts the town has a

four-diamond softball complex and bicycle paths.

The biggest event of the summer for the locals occurs in August when Gold Rush Days and the annual Salmon Derby get underway. Gold Rush Days, complete with melodramas, a parade and other fun events, will run from August 10-14. The derby, in which contestants try to land the biggest fish, runs from August 6-28.

Alaska's flag was designed by Benny Benson in 1926 in a contest among territorial school children. The flag consists of eight gold stars on a field of blue—the Big Dipper and the North Star. Benny won a \$1,000 scholarship for the design. "The blue field is for the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not, an Alaska flower. The North Star is for the future state of Alaska, the most northerly of the Union," Benson said in 1927, some three decades before Alaska became the 49th state.

## COLUMBIA GLACIER TOURS and ALASKA CHARTERS

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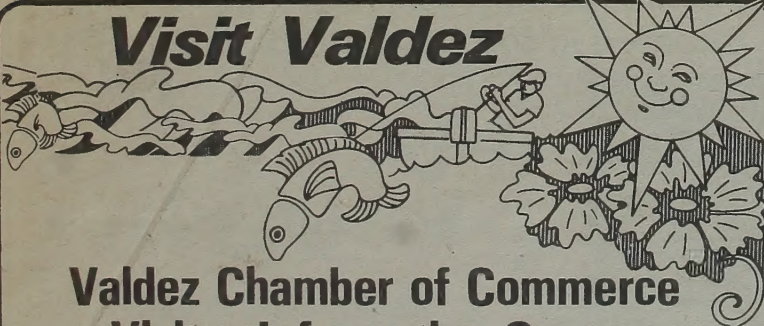
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## Visit Valdez



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## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Silver Salmon Derby

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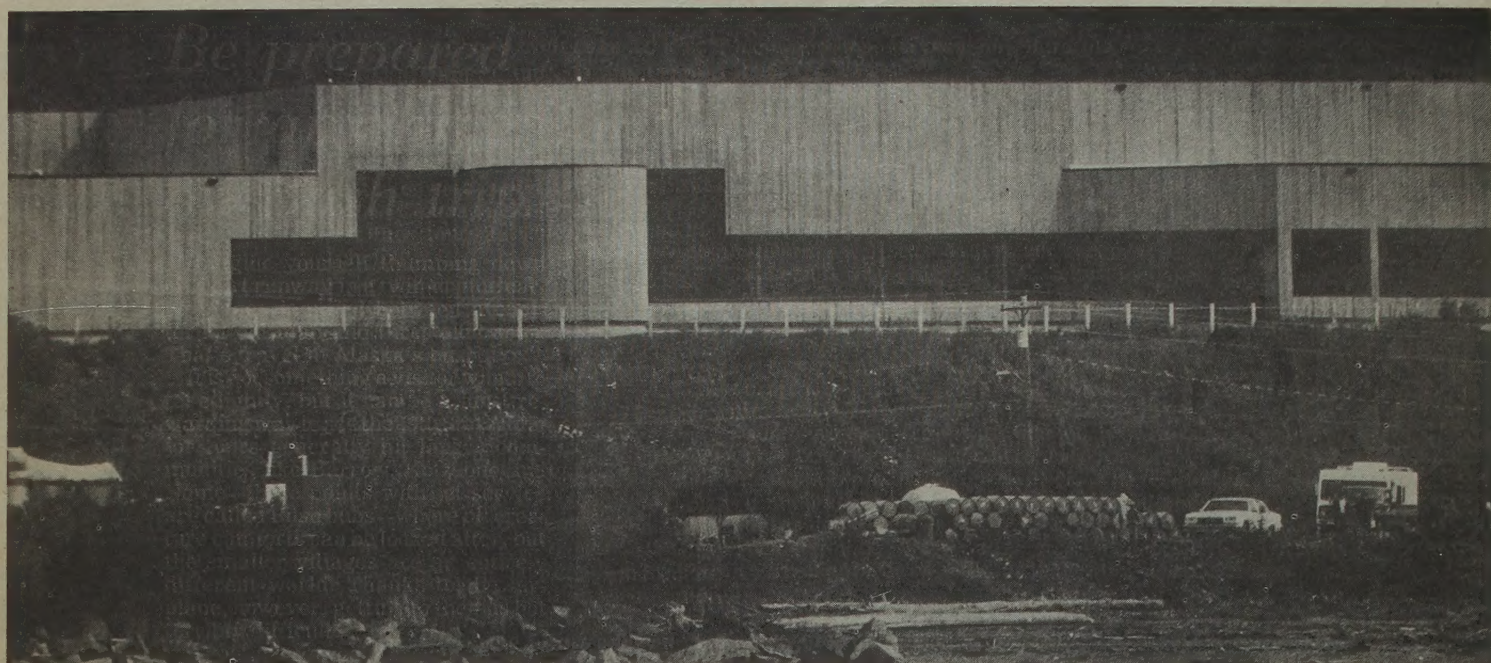
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**SIGN OF PROSPERITY**—The \$5.5 million Valdez Civic Center, which opened last summer, can accommodate 1,000 people for meetings. It has a ballroom, theater and

a hall overlooking the harbor. When the oil-rich town of 3,300 dedicated the building last summer, Lola Falana was hired as the opening act. (Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

## Oil pipeline pumps up Valdez

**VALDEZ**—This city is home to the southern terminus of the trans-Alaska pipeline—the \$10 billion project which produces 17 percent of the nation's domestic crude oil.

The Prudhoe Bay oil field, 800 miles north of Valdez on the shores of the Beaufort Sea, was discovered in 1968. Within a year plans for a pipeline were announced.

But extensive legal battles delayed construction until 1973 when the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. received permission to begin construction.

In 1974 the road from the Yukon River to Prudhoe Bay was built and pipeline construction began in earnest. By May 1977 all 800 miles of pipe had been laid and tested. The effort culminated when the pipeline system began operations on June 20, 1977.

Because of varying soil conditions along the route, the pipeline is

alternately buried and above ground. Where the frozen ground is mostly well-drained gravel and thawing will not cause erosion, the line is buried. Where the ground is permafrost—permanently frozen ground—the pipeline is elevated.

The state of Alaska is dependent on the 48-inch oil pipeline for most of its income. The state has no income tax, no sales tax and low property taxes because of oil money. Declining world oil prices have reduced state revenues, however, and the Legislature in Juneau spends much of its annual session slicing up the shrinking oil money pie.

The oil bonanza has been particularly good for Valdez, which boasts many facilities not normally found in a town of 3,000 souls—such as its new civic center, new library, new city hall, a \$1 million softball complex and a \$50 million dock. The city budget is more than \$34 million.

## Geologists eye glacier's moves

Tourists aren't the only ones with their eyes on the Columbia Glacier.

The Columbia, largest glacier in Prince William Sound, has been the subject of intensive research over the past several years because it is near the shipping lanes used by tankers hauling oil out of Valdez.

The chief worry is that icebergs coming off the 440-square-mile glacier may collide with oil tankers and result in disaster. In 1979, the United States Geological Survey said an "irreversible, drastic retreat of Columbia is inevitable" and that it would probably begin in less than 20 years.

The USGS also said that the production of icebergs from the glacier will increase to four times the number created in 1977-78 and that ultimately a new 25-mile-long fjord will open.

In "Alaska's Glaciers," a book published by the Alaska Geographic, the USGS is quoted as saying that the glacier will produce from 20 to 27 million tons of ice from 1982 to 1985 and that a retreat of five miles will occur by 1986, releasing up to 10 cubic miles of ice. The agency also stated that up to 50 cubic miles of ice could be released into Prince William Sound in the next 30 to 50 years.

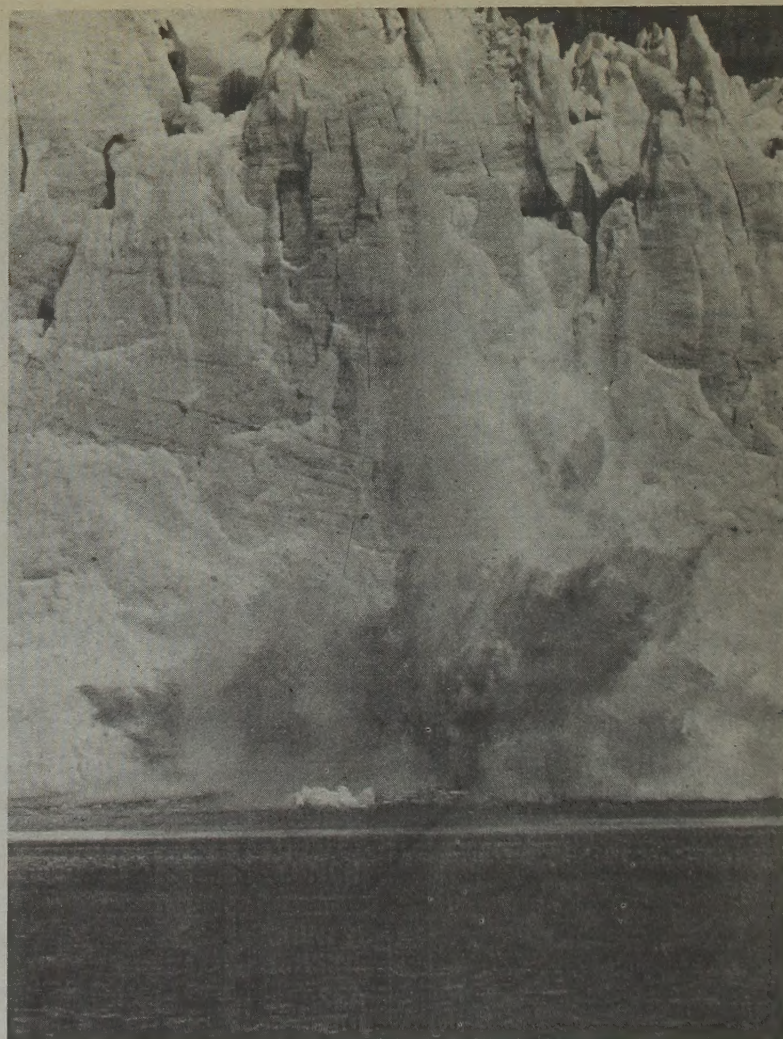
"If retreat begins and iceberg production significantly increases, tankers carrying petroleum from Valdez to refineries in the Lower 48 states may be restricted in terms of when and where they can travel in Prince William Sound," the Alaska Geographic said.

"It is possible that Port Valdez could be completely blocked by icebergs or in the worst case, a tanker-iceberg collision leading to an oil spill could occur," it said.

The Columbia Glacier was named in 1899 by the Harriman Alaska Expedition for Columbia University in New York City. The glacier originates in the snows on Mount Einstein in the Chugach Mountains.

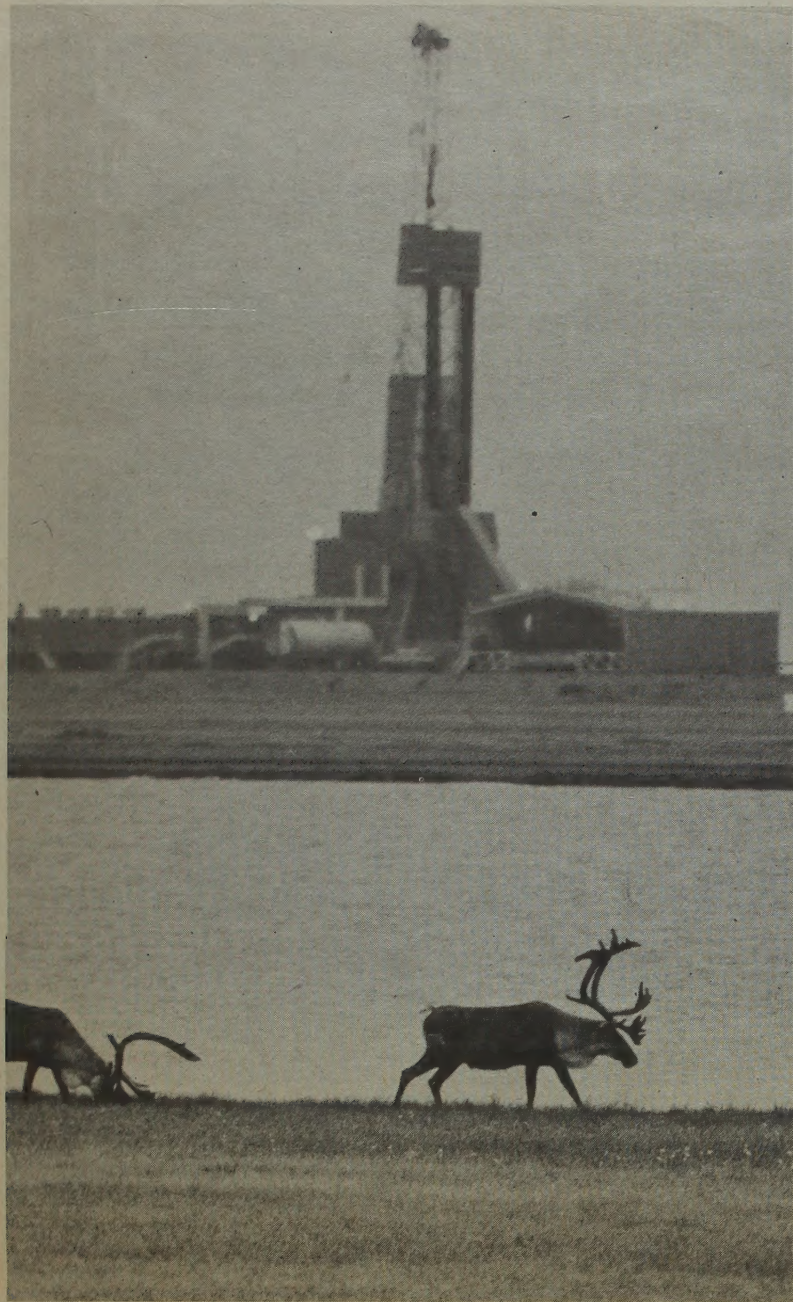
Glaciers cover about 29,000 square miles or about 4.9 percent of Alaska.

Glacier ice is blue because it has air trapped in it unlike snow or regular winter ice. Snow piles up year after year at the top of glaciers and the weight squeezes the air out of the ice. "The six-sided crystals that result from such compression absorb most colors of the spectrum but reflect blue," says the Alaska Almanac, a book of facts about Alaska.



**SPLASH**—A piece of the Columbia Glacier, one of the largest of the tidewater glaciers on Alaska's coast, drops into the waters of Prince William Sound. Visitors can see the glacier by one of several private charter groups or from one of the state ferries. (News-Miner file photo)





**CARIBOU GRAZE**—During the North Slope’s short summer, caribou can sometimes be seen near the Prudhoe Bay oil fields. The 800-mile pipeline from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to Prince William Sound carries 1.5 million barrels of oil a day. The pipeline can be seen along various parts of the Richardson Highway. Near Fairbanks take the Steese Highway 8 miles out of town for a good view of the oil line.

(BP-Alaska photo)

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Reptiles are not usually found in Alaska outside of captivity. Three species of garter snake have been reported on the banks of the Taku River and Stikine River.

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## Mail ivory carvings to avoid \$25 charge

There's only one way to avoid a \$25 export/in-transit permit if you are traveling from Alaska through Canada with carved ivory or parts of four furbearing animals. The exception is to mail them.

Under federal laws protecting U.S. marine mammals and endangered species, it is prohibited to transport furs, tusks, teeth, jawbones or any other parts of the listed mammals or furbearers into another country.

For that reason, visitors traveling through or even stopping in Canada need to have an export and/or transit permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Senior Resident Agent Alan Crane of the Fairbanks office explains that those visitors going by

plane or ferry to another U.S. destination, such as Seattle, don't need the permits.

Crane cautions that without the permit, customs agents have the right to seize the protected items, regardless of whether they were purchased legally.

Among the items on the list are walrus ivory (including any carved piece), lynx, otter, brown/grizzly bear and wolves.

To obtain a permit, the applicant should have a dated, signed receipt of purchase from a gift shop or other outlet. Permits are available at 1412 Airport Way in Fairbanks, or any U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge office. The local law enforcement office, which can answer questions, can be called at 456-0255.



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PRUDHOE BAY

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Tour prices include air transportation, airport transfers at tour destinations, shared hotel accommodations on overnight tours, services of guides, sightseeing and features as outlined. Meals not included. Scheduled jet flights.

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**EARLY DAY FAIRBANKS**—Before Alaska's major roads were built, the major highways were waterways. Here a crowd of steamboats is shown on the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks near the old Turner Street Bridge,

which was just downstream from the present Cushman Street Bridge. Improved overland transportation in the form of highways and the Alaska Railroad did away with the old steamers that once traveled the rivers.

(UA archives, Wilson F. Erskine collection)

## Hear the sound of 'one hand slapping'

While you're here, you'll undoubtedly be introduced to the mosquito.

There are 25 species in Alaska, the females of which feed on people and other living things.

Richard "Skeeter" Werner, entomologist at the Institute of Northern Forestry, said mosquitos probably number in the billions in the Fairbanks area. They reach their peak in June and July.

Although he couldn't say how many eggs one female will lay in a season, he said they usually lay 200 at a time and can do so repeatedly over a lifespan that is sometimes as long as four months. Males, which do not bite and usually don't buzz, live for only a few days.

The mosquitos don't need pools of water in which to breed, Werner said. They can lay eggs in damp holes in trees or in wet grass.

Werner has recommended that the city use a plant based insecticide called Pyrethrin instead of Malathion which has been used in the past. He said the Pyrethrin doesn't have as adverse affect on bees and it is less toxic to fish. It is also safer for mammals, he said.

As for humans, Werner said some people claim taking Vitmin B will protect a person from mosquitos but he said it's never been scientifically proven.

"There is really no way to combat them. You've got to learn to live with them if you're up here," he said.

"Just keep on flapping."

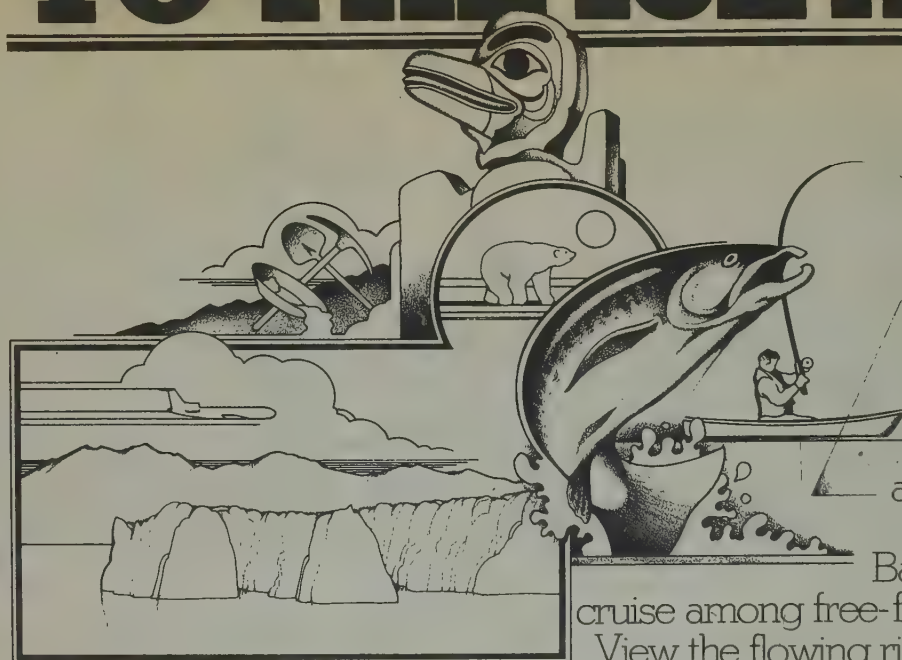
There are parts of Alaska where the mosquito is not a problem—the Aleutian Islands in particular.

The most serious concentrations of mosquitoes are in the Interior. According to the Alaska Almanac, they are most active at dawn and dusk and low temperatures and high winds decrease their activity.

On the streets of Fairbanks you may not notice too many of the pesky insects because the city sprays frequently. On trips outside the city limits, however, make sure to bring good mosquito repellent.



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Pan for gold, in Nome. Visit the Eskimo village of Kotzebue. See the midnight sun and the Museum of the Arctic. Call your travel agent or Alaska Airlines for brochures and reservations.

From Fairbanks

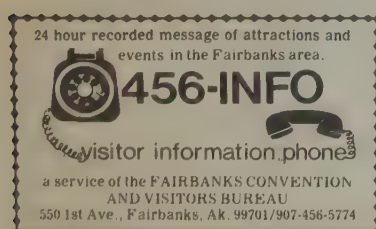
To: Glacier Bay \$164.00

To: Arctic \$179.00

Prices are per person during peak season and do not include airfare. Other variations of tours available. Based on double occupancy, 2 days, 1 night.

# Alaska Airlines

Fly with a happy face.







**WAVES OF GRAIN**—The Delta area is a rapidly-growing agricultural center in Interior Alaska. The state is pushing ahead with a project to get up to 60,000 acres into grain

production. Officials hope the Delta Agricultural Project will help make farming a stable source of year-round employment.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

## Delta

# Buffalo are home on the range

By SHARON HANEY  
Correspondent

Welcome to Delta, home of huskies, buffalo, and a hardy mix of civilized folks! "Delta," the area between the Delta River, Tanana River, Gerstle River and Granite Mountain ridges of the Alaska Range, is actually several communities: Big Delta, Clearwater and Alcan Highway, population 909,

the city of Delta Junction, population 1,044, and Fort Greely Army Reservation, population 1,400.

Most of you will view Mile 1423 of the Alaska Highway with utmost relief. Go directly to the Tourist Information Center at the triangle of the highways and pick up your certificates to verify you've traveled the full length of that serpentine splendor!

Operated by the Delta Chamber of Commerce, the Center provides lots of information and brochures about the Delta area.

Others of you arrived from the south after a breathtaking drive through the Alaska Range on the 365-mile Richardson Highway, the state's first highway, running from Valdez to Fairbanks.

And others, from the north, after visiting Fairbanks and the many great fishing spots along the Richardson's 100-mile route to Delta.

A few of you will have flown in with one of two air taxi services operating between Tok, Delta and Fairbanks.

However you got here you'll be glad to know the services offered here will

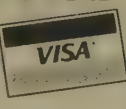
(See DELTA, page 13)

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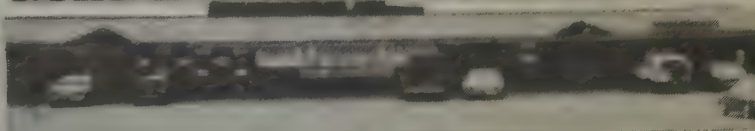
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# DELTA . . .

(Continued from page 12)

cover all your basic needs, whether that means doing laundry, washing the mud-caked vehicle, buying food for Fido, aerial sightseeing, mechanical repairs, or pure relaxation.

## Main Trails

The Richardson Highway and Alaska Highway are "modern" routes into this area, having been constructed in 1906 and 1942-43, respectively. Prior to roads, the rivers served as highways, while the first foray into the interior along an overland Indian route was made in 1884 by Major William R. Abercrombie. The path became known as "Abercrombie's Trail" and was improved by the U.S. Army in 1899.

Presently, the State of Alaska Historical Department is restoring the complex of buildings known as Rika's Landing. The confluence of the rivers is also the site of the trans-Alaska pipeline cable suspension bridge.

## Buffalo

One of Delta's best-known attractions, the buffalo, entered this area at the junction of the rivers in 1928, when 19 were turned loose through a project conceived by the Alaska-Yukon Game Protective and Propagation Association and funded by the Alaska Territorial Legislature.

Up until about 300 years ago, bison roamed throughout Alaska, so it was speculated that they would do well in the grasslands that existed here at the time—and they have. Nearly 400 buffalo now roam free in the area, the largest of four herds in the state.

The buffalo, obtained from the National Bison Range at Moiese, Montana, were the origin of the name "Buffalo Center" for a 1919 townsite which had sprung up around a building by the same name near the Richardson Highway Delta Camp. This townsite was incorporated in

1960 as the City of Delta Junction.

During summer, the best spot to see buffalo is across the Delta River at Mile 241 Richardson Highway—take your binoculars—and for more information, feel free to contact the local office of the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game.

## Agriculture

Thoughts about free-roaming buffalo in this area seem to change with the ebb and flow of farming. A major influx of homesteaders in the '50s brought a significant agricultural base to the area, which had previously depended on hunting, trapping, highway business such as it was, or Fort Greely for income and livelihood. These were the first folks to cohabit with buffalo in their fields.

But a large agricultural project recently butted heads with the animals when substantial losses of grain were reported. Located along the Alaska Highway from Mile 1393 to Mile 1413, the Delta Agricultural Project, a state-sponsored agricultural venture begun in 1978 with the disposal of 65,000 acres of brush and woodland to 22 lottery winners, conclusively proved that the buffalo prefer barley to sedge and wild grasses.

Agricultural development was a keystone in the creation of the Delta Junction Bison Range, a 90,000 acre range located south of the Alaska Highway from Mile 1389 to Mile 1410.

To view area farms, take a driving tour around Tanana Loop Road, which runs between Mile 272 Richardson Highway and 3-Mile Jack Warren Road, or Remington Road, which runs between 7.5 Mile Jack Warren Road and Mile 1414 Alaska Highway. Mile 1403.5 Alaska Highway and Mile 1410 Alaska Highway are the site of two access roads for viewing the Agricultural Project.

## Fishing & Boating

Many travelers will want to check



**LOOKING IT OVER**—Bison such as this one are thriving in Delta. According to some grain farmers, the animals are living too well and eating their crops in the field. The authorities hope creation of a bison range will solve the farmer-bison feuding.

(News-Miner file photo)

out the fishing at Quartz Lake, Clearwater Lake, Clearwater River, at the Delta and Tanana Rivers' confluence, or other spots accessible only by boat or air.

Many will want to use Delta as a base of operations for river adventures on the Delta, Gulkana, Clearwater, Goodpaster, Tanana or Volkmar Rivers.

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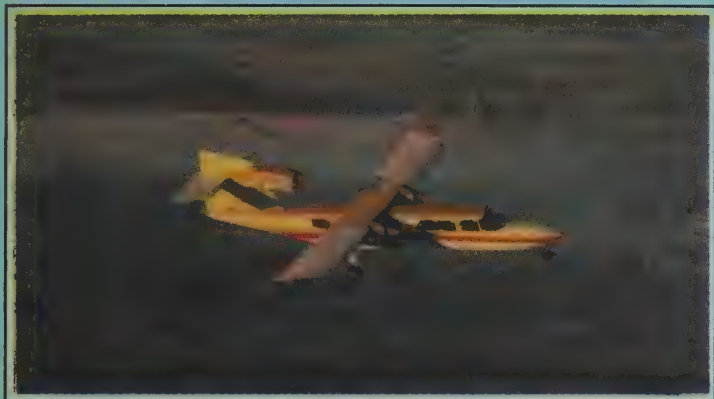
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**North Pole**

**City of 900 is home  
 to Santa, oil refinery**

By **JOAN COSTON**  
 Correspondent

**NORTH POLE**—As a 1981 local public television documentary, "Yes, Virginia, There Really is a North Pole," attested, the home of Santa Claus, North Pole, Alaska, really does exist.

Nestled among the trees at 14 Mile Richardson Highway, does indeed lie North Pole, a small developing community of 900-plus residents.

From its inception, Dahl and Gaske Development Co. believed the unique town name just might perhaps prove attractive for future business growth. To the present time, North Pole has continued to attract newcomers to the community.

The company purchased the

homestead of Bon V. Davis with an eye toward fostering the growth of a larger town.

Davis, in an article for the November 1970 issue of Alaska Magazine, said he and his wife Bernice, arrived in Fairbanks on April 7, 1944 after accepting a job offer for work in Alaska. After checking on the requirements for obtaining land to homestead and looking over the area between 7 and 15 Mile Richardson Highway, they selected a section along the west bank of the 14 Mile Slough.

"Little did we dream that our undistinguished 160 acres of scrub trees and brush would ever be more than just a homestead, much less that it would become North Pole, one of the

(See **NORTH POLE**, page 15)

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## NORTH POLE . . .

(Continued from page 14)

important settlements in Interior Alaska," Davis wrote.

In 1977, the town became home for North Pole Refining, a subsidiary of MAPCO Petroleum Co., located at 15 Mile Old Richardson Highway. With a daily production of 45,000 barrels of crude oil from the Alaska pipeline each day, the company retains approximately 15,000 barrels for heating oil and jet fuel production, before returning the remainder to the pipeline to proceed to the Valdez terminal.

North Pole is also home to the broadcasting outlets of KJNP, which operates two radio stations and a television station about 0.6 mile behind the visitors center on the Richardson Highway. Visitors are welcome between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Tours can be arranged.

Over the past 30 years, a few residents have watched the community transform from a fledgling single homestead, post office and the first school, to a city planning to build a new firehall complete with five bays, and a new water treatment facility with trees planted on the roof.

With at least four new subdivisions springing up in its midst, the possibility of annexing additional surrounding areas into the city, and the proposed building of a the new North Pole Senior High School, it appears that the city will experience further growth within the next year.

Tourists visiting the area are welcome to make use of the Fairbanks North Star Borough campground located on Fifth Avenue. The park site is complete with water fountains, restroom facilities, adequate space for about a dozen tents, picnic tables and trash containers. Visitors are permitted to stay for five days.



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## Barnette's bad luck launched city

Fairbanks is not what you'd called a planned community.

Eighty-two years ago this summer, the Lavelle Young, a 150-foot wood-burning steamer filled with \$20,000 worth of goods, was unable to ascend the Tanana River past some sandy shallows.

E.T. Barnette, was bringing the goods up to establish a trading post at Tanacross where the trail from Valdez to Eagle crossed the upper Tanana.

Trying to find a way around, the steamer detoured up the Chena River. After a few miles, however, the steamer ran out of water and despite Barnette's protests, he and his boatload of supplies were deposited by the boat's captain on the banks of the river.

A small monument near the side of the Cushman Street Bridge marks the location.

Barnette was still there a year later when Felix Pedro found gold in the hills about 16 miles north. A monument in honor of Pedro is located on the Steese Highway at Mile 16.6.

Pedro's discovery touched off a stampede that established the gold mining community for good. At the suggestion of Barnette's friend, James Wickersham, the town was named for Sen. Charles Fairbanks of Indiana, who later became vice president of the United States under President Theodore Roosevelt. The 1910 census listed a population of more than 3,500. Miners living north of town brought the figure to 11,000.

Barnette himself came in for hard times. His bank failed and he was tried on charges that he caused it. He was found innocent of all but the minor charge of falsely reporting the

condition of the bank. Nevertheless, he disappeared and went to Mexico.

The gold that was the town's lifeblood in its early years began dwindling after a few years. By 1920, gold production in the Fairbanks district was down to \$500,000.

The last dredge in Fairbanks was shut down in 1964 as a result of rising operating costs and the unchanged price of gold. One of the huge dredges can be seen along the Steese Highway near the old mining town of Chatanika.

In the past few years, gold mining has enjoyed a resurgence in Alaska as rising prices have sent miners prospecting once more. Most of the gold mining activity is taking place in the Circle district up the Steese Highway north of Fairbanks.

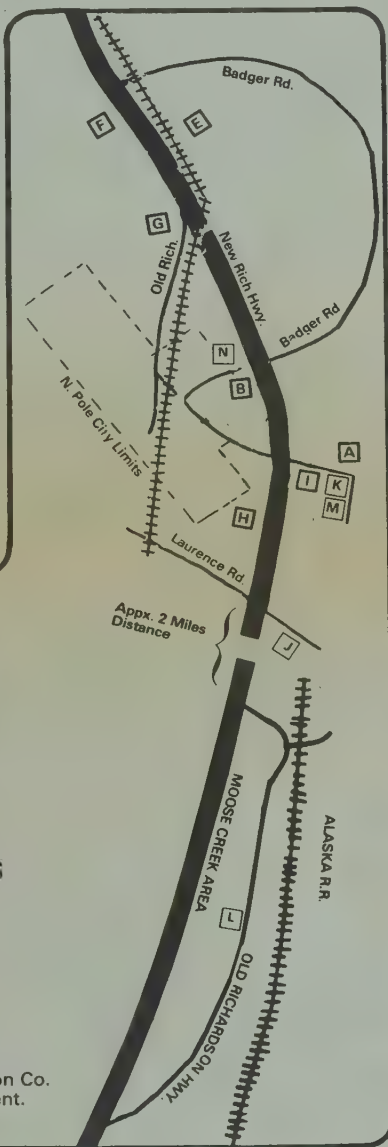
However, it is oil, not gold which

has supplied the biggest impetus for growth during the second half of the century.

In January and June 1968 Atlantic Richfield Company and Humble Oil discovered oil at Prudhoe Bay, 390 miles north of Fairbanks. Although the trans-Alaska pipeline has been in operation for six years, Fairbanks, the second largest city in Alaska, is still heavily dependent on the North Slope oil field 400 miles to the north.

The city serves as a supply and transportation center for oil field activities and many union members are employed on the "Slope" as it's called.

Military spending at Fort Wainwright, an Army base just outside of town, and Eielson Air Force base also support the economy. Other major factors are the University of Alaska, tourism and the state, federal and local governments.



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# Fairbanksans are a breed apart

By SCOTT YATES  
Staff Writer

There is an old saying in Alaska that the typical resident makes three trips on the Alaska Highway. The newcomer has to drive up here initially, of course, then after making some money and experiencing the winter's chill, the seasoned veteran heads back to warmer climes. Things are never the same after living in Alaska, though, and the third and final trip over the Alaska Highway is taken to return to the 49th state for good.

Those that do make their home here are a diverse bunch. According to the 1980 census, men still outnumber women, (by about four percent) but the gap is closing.

Latest census figures indicate there are 59,222 people who live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, an area about the size of West Virginia and the equivalent of a county elsewhere. More than 70 percent of the people who live in the area around Fairbanks are under 35.

In addition to being young, we are an educated bunch, too. Of the residents in the borough over 25 years old, 86.6 percent are high school graduates. Forty-five percent have been to college—21 percent attended four years or more.

There are 23,450 people working in the non-agricultural job force, and 36 percent are employed by various levels of government.

Breakdown by race shows that whites dominate the Interior making up 46,109 of the population. There are 3,000 aboriginal Alaskans (known locally as Alaska Natives) who live in the borough and 3,000 blacks. In addition, there are varying numbers of immigrants from Oriental and Asian communities.

Wherever we come from, we have to get used to the Interior's harsh climate. In the winter, the temperature can fall as low as 66 degrees below zero and the sun only shines for a little more than three hours a day.

Of course, on the other extreme, the maximum temperature recorded is 96 degrees and during the summer, the sun hangs around 22 hours at a time during the long days of June.

Although unmarried miners were

the first to call the Interior home, we are now an area of families. Latest statistics revealed 13,227 families in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. There are more than 8,700 families with children under age 18.

Those who come to Alaska for the money find salaries that run from minimum wage to \$30 an hour. The average monthly wage for residents in the borough is \$2,141 as of the fourth quarter of 1980. That doesn't mean everyone earns that much. That's the total amount of wages paid out divided by the number of people who live here.

There are waitresses who earn \$4.32 an hour and airline pilots who make \$25.67 an hour. Teachers earn an average of \$36,500 and the lowest paid fire fighter earns \$36,420. Sheetmetal workers on the North Slope make \$23.16 which doesn't include their fringe benefits.

But jobs are not easy to find. The unemployment rate in Fairbanks runs at about 15 percent in the winter when construction activity halts and about 10 percent in the summer.

And it costs more to live here. The price of 1,000 kilowatt hours of residential electricity in Fairbanks, for instance, is more than five times what it is in Seattle.

And houses to rent, if you can find one, range from \$180 a month for a cabin with no plumbing to \$1,250 a month for a three bedroom house.



**GOLDEN HEART CITY**—Downtown Fairbanks is laid out along the twisting lines of the Chena River which empties into the Tanana River a few miles outside of town. The city has a population of about 25,000, while about 35,000 people live within commuting distance.  
(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

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22 Mile Old Richardson Hwy.  
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#### First Baptist Church of North Pole

Corner: 5th, Richardson Hwy.  
Services: KJNP, 11:00 a.m.  
KJNP T.V., 8:00 p.m. Sundays  
Box 55249, Phone 488-2240

#### St. Jude's Episcopal Church at Lord of Life Lutheran Church

12.5 Mile Richardson Hwy., Phone 488-9329  
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### FAIRBANKS AREA

#### Alliance Church (C&M.A.)

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Services 11:00 a.m., Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

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2501 Airport Way, Phone 456-7868  
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# Step back in time at Alaskaland

By DAN JOLING  
Staff Writer

For a snapshot of Interior Alaska's roots, a trip to Alaskaland, the city park off Airport Way, is a good visitors' stop.

You can dine on fresh salmon baked over an alder fire, watch dancing girls revive can-can, view Native artisans plying crafts, learn about gold rush history and ride a narrow gauge railroad.

It's even possible to get there without driving yourself.

Alaskaland's free rubber-tire tram train makes regular visits downtown, stopping at local hotels along the way. If you do drive, there's plenty of free parking. Call 452-4244 for more information.

Once you get there, you'll want to see:

- **The Civic Center.** The City of Fairbanks completed renovating the building in 1982, and it's one of the nicest arenas for watching performing or visual arts.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. the civic center is home for the Alaskaland Cinema which offers classic, foreign and independently produced films, billed as "the best of everything." Price is \$3 general admission, and only \$1 for senior citizens and children age 3-12. Monday nights general admission is \$2. Call 456-8906 to see what's on this week.

Thursday nights at 8:15 p.m. is Mainstage Fairbanks, a free summer series of music and dancing shows, from bluegrass to ballet. The shows are 90 minutes—just long enough to catch the tram-train back to a hotel. Call 456-6485 for the schedule.

Also, don't forget to stop at the center's art gallery on the third floor.

(See ALASKALAND, page 19)



**BIG STAMPEDE**—Visitors sit on revolving platform to view Rusty Heurlin's paintings of the gold rush, accompanied by music and narration by Ruben Gaines, former poet laureate of Alaska. Showings are daily at 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 p.m. For more information, phone Nancy Junk at Alaskaland, 452-4244.

(Staff Photo by Jimmy Bedford)

## Painter's artwork covers Alaska

One of the best kept secrets in Fairbanks is "The Big Stampede," a set of 19 murals depicting the gold rush. For most of the Pioneers, this collection is considered the best show in Fairbanks and some would say that there is nothing like it anywhere else in Alaska.

The paintings were done by Rusty Heurlin, a well-known Alaskan artist, who first came to the territory in 1916 and has produced two other sets of murals, now awaiting exhibition space. The Big Stampede was painted as a special project for the Alaska Purchase Centennial celebration, A-67, and was one of the major features which helped Fairbanks earn the designation as the state's official Centennial site.

The Big Stampede is housed at Alaskaland in a special hall adjacent to the Pioneer Museum, making it an easy place to visit when you are at the

museum. Visitors are seated on a special revolving platform, allowing them to see one painting at a time and listen to music and a narration by Ruben Gaines, former poet laureate of Alaska.

The presentation takes about 40 minutes and is normally shown five times each day, at 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8 p.m. Although most showings are not crowded, seating is limited to 30 or 40 and visitors are advised to be in the Pioneer lobby a few minutes early to be assured of a seat. For groups, it might be advisable to notify the Alaskaland office at 452-4244.



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## ALASKALAND . . .

(Continued from page 18)

- **Gold Rush Town.** Cabins, churches and other buildings from Fairbanks' infant days were moved to Alaskaland. They house dozens of small shops featuring Alaska crafts, jewelry, photographs and food. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- **Palace Saloon.** A highlight of Gold Rush Town is the Palace, featuring one of the only cabaret shows in the state. Watch an all-new original music vaudeville show written and performed by Jim Bell, and assisted by Miss Milli the Alabama Filly, the Can-Can Cuties and the Boom-dee-yay Boys. The show runs Wednesday through Saturday, 10 p.m. and midnight. Monday and Tuesday you can take in other local talent. Call the Palace at 456-5960 for details.

- **Native Village.** On the back side of the park along the Chena River, Alaska Kkaayah displays artifacts by Native Alaskans and offers insights into the state's original occupants. The village offers weekly workshops in various crafts including ivory carving, wood carving, and skin boat making and other crafts. Alaska Kkaayah may also feature summer camp programs for youth and arts and crafts sales. Call 479-8473 for information.

- **Mining Valley.** The west end of the park features many of the machines used by Alaskan pioneers to extract gold from the surrounding hills: sluice boxes, gold dredge buckets, a stamp mill and a steam shovel used in construction of the Panama Canal before arriving in Alaska.

- **Alaska Salmon Bake.** If you don't hit Mining Valley for the mining equipment, the smell of fresh baked salmon will probably draw you in. The restaurant features fresh ocean-caught salmon, halibut or ribs cooked over an alder fire every night. There's indoor or outdoor seating and free bus service to and from most hotels. Hours are 5-9 p.m.

- **Riverboat Nenana.** Listed on the National Historical Register, this was the last of the great riverboats to ply the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. Inside is the Sandbar restaurant and bar, open 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. The boat is in need of renovation work to stop deterioration. To keep the vessel from getting any worse, the city put a temporary frame roof over the boat a few years ago. This summer a channel is being dug so the boat can be floated to a location near the park entrance.



**ALASKALAND**—Gold Rush town at Alaskaland, the 44-acre park operated by the city of Fairbanks, gives visitors a taste of what the town on the Chena used to be like.

(News-Miner file photo)

## Winter does not last forever

Most people associate cold weather with Fairbanks, but there are four distinct seasons here.

Winter is long and cold with temperatures dipping at times to 50 and 60 below in December and January, when the sun only rises above the horizon for a few hours a day.

The first real cold weather arrives in November. By February the worst of it is over.

The snow is usually gone by early May.

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## Fairbanks' best things are free

By JIMMY BEDFORD  
Correspondent

If you are tired of the high cost of traveling, you have come to the right place. In Fairbanks some of the best things in life are free, or nearly so.

First stop is the log cabin Convention and Visitors Bureau (456-5774) to learn of current events. In season, of course, Fairbanksans enjoy such excitement as observing the geese arriving at Creamer's Field, or watching the ice melt at Nenana where the "ice pool" netted the lucky winners \$133,000 this year.

There is also curling, dog mushing, and hockey in winter. Summer sports include motorboat racing, soccer, baseball, canoe races, bicycle races, and ballooning. Although it may cost to get high on a balloon, watching is free and you use your camera to take it all home with you.

Although the Eskimo-Indian World Olympics has a nominal admission charge, it offers a rare opportunity to see and photograph Native dancing, blanket toss, seal skinning, muktuk eating, and other exotic activities from July 29 to 31. Don't forget the Tanana Valley Fair which runs Aug. 16 to 21. To find out what else is happening in Fairbanks, phone 456-INFO for a recording of the day's events.

Elsewhere in this Visitors Guide you will find stories about some of these free things such as Alaskaland, the musk ox farm, University museum, University of Alaska tours, and a walking tour of Fairbanks. Each of them is well worth the time and the only price is a bit of shoe leather applied to the pavement as you ride shank's mare to the various sites around town.

After you get tired of walking and want something a bit more sedentary, you might try visiting one of the libraries. The modern Noel Wien Library, part of the North Star Borough library system, is a great place to relax, read, watch a video tape, listen to a tape or record, learn about the history of the area, read a magazine, or look at old newspapers on microfilm.

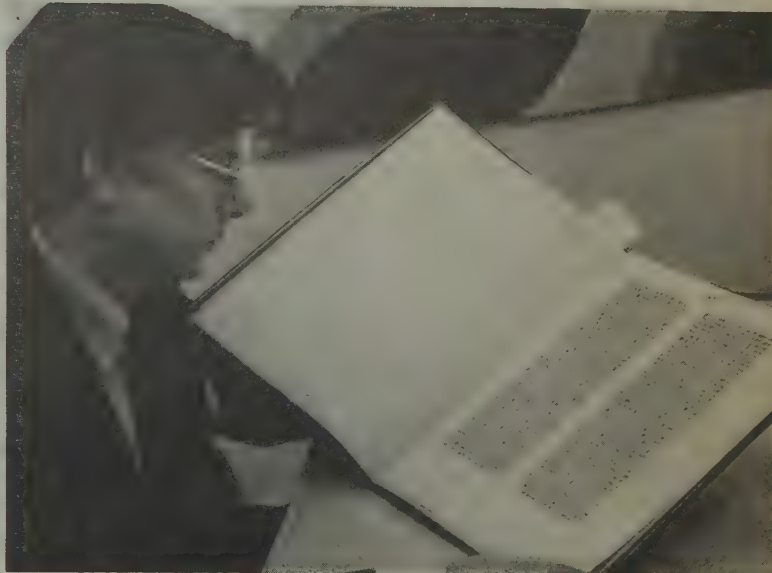
The kids can enjoy story telling or some of the other special activities arranged for them in the Bill Berry Room. There is also a paperback book exchange.

Speaking of libraries, none in the state can compare with the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska, with its more than a million volumes, counting 16mm films, microfiche, and microfilm. You can wander around four floors of books, magazines, maps, and documents and browse to your heart's content.

You don't need an ID card to read books in the library and you can freely take them off the shelves and sit down in a comfortable chair to while away the hours, especially on a rainy day when being outdoors may not be much fun. A borough library card can be used to check out books. Others may check out books by making a \$25 refundable deposit and paying a \$5 fee per semester.

If the library doesn't have what you want, you can request it through inter-library loan, with direct connection to 86 libraries in the Washington library network. Although delivery of some books can take some time, rapid facsimile copies of specific pages of periodicals or books can be received in 24 hours for a nominal fee.

"The University library has the



**GUTENBERG**—University of Alaska Archivist Paul McCarthy holds a book showing a page from the original Gutenberg Bible printed about 1455. The library has more than 1 million volumes. Its Alaska holdings are among the finest in the world.

(Staff photo by Jimmy Bedford)

major Alaska collection in the world, and either the third or fourth ranking Polar collection in the world," according to Robert Geiman, director.

The rare book room, accessible by permission, contains a facsimile copy of the entire two-volume Gutenberg Bible, as well as a single page from one of the original volumes printed by Gutenberg himself in 1455. This will save you a trip to the Library of Con-

gress or the Gutenberg museum in Germany, and you don't have to look at the page through screened, bullet-proof glass.

The archives, also located in the library, contains priceless collections of manuscripts and 100,000 historical photographs available to the serious scholar.

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# Binkleys keep rolling on the river

Fairbanks' founding was closely tied to a riverboat, when E.T. Barnette and his load of supplies could make it no farther up the Chena River.

Since that fateful day more than 80 years ago, riverboats have never been far away, and the tradition continues today with the Discovery stern-wheelers operated by the Binkley family.

The Binkleys are starting their 34th year of guiding visitors down the Chena and Tanana rivers. The popular trip includes a detailed narration of Alaska history and wildlife.

The Binkley family have a long association with riverboats.

Jim Binkley's father was captain of a sternwheeler on the upper Yukon River during gold rush days. Two uncles worked as engineers and captains on the Yukon.

Binkley himself got his start working as a deck hand on his uncles' tourism and freight operation on the Stikine River in Southeast Alaska.

He joined the military during World War II and piloted boats for the Army all over Alaska. During the '40s, he also worked for a freight operation on Interior rivers.

Binkley built Discovery I in 1955. In 1969 he converted the one-time Nenana Ferry into the sternwheeler Discovery II.

It didn't take long for the rest of the family to get involved.

Wife Mary Binkley serves as hostess on tours and schedules trips.

Daughter Marilee is secretary and a hostess.

Sons Skip and Jim became licensed captains when they were 18 and now do most of the navigating on the river while Binkley gives the narration.

Discovery I leaves its Dale Road landing near Fairbanks International



**RIVER TRIP**—The Binkley family operates two sternwheelers on the Chena and Tanana Rivers. The \$20 sightseeing trips are the last vestige of passenger travel on Interior rivers.

(News-Miner file photo)

Airport at 2 p.m. daily. It returns by 6 p.m.

During the height of the season the Binkleys make additional trips with their smaller boat, either in the morning or at 2:20 p.m.

Both were slightly modified this year. A second snack bar was added to Discovery II. The covered deck on Discovery I was expanded.

The larger boat is licensed for 350 passengers and the smaller for 150.

Both are all weather boats. Discovery II has glass enclosed seating for 200 people on its second deck alone.

"They can be inside in comfort and see Alaska," said Mary Binkley.

Passengers get a commentary on the millions of dollars worth of gold

taken from the rivers' tributaries. They also get a view of a riverbank airstrip, a trapping camp, a closeup view of Indian fish wheels and an occasional moose or other wildlife.

If you buy a ticket at the landing, cost of the four-hour trip is \$20. If you're age 13-18, on active military or a senior citizen, the cost is \$18.

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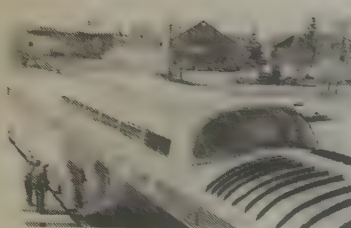


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**WAY BACK WHEN**—From the way it looks now, you can hardly recognize the Fairbanks skyline of 1949, but there are a few landmarks. The church steeple at right is that of the Immaculate Conception Church, just to the east of

Cushman Street. Samson Hardware is still in business and the concrete building across the river on the left was once Fairbanks' federal building. It is being renovated now as condominium office space.

*(University of Alaska Archives, Edby Davis collection)*

# See Fairbanks on your own two feet

Take a walk around Fairbanks. There is plenty to see downtown, at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and along the nature trail at Creamer's Field. Now that you've got comfortable shoes on, you can start at the Visitors Center in the log cabin on First Avenue. The center offers two walking tours which hit the historic highlights

of downtown Fairbanks. The free guided tours leave the center daily at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. One tour takes about an hour and covers a four-square-block area in the west part of town. A second tour covers the east side of town. The center also sells "Ghosts of the Gold Rush," a self-guided walking

tour by Fairbanks historian Terrence Cole. • The University of Alaska-Fairbanks offers guided and self-guided tours of the campus. Tours of the library, a visit to the Musk Ox Farm, Geophysical Institute and Agricultural Experiment Station are also available. Guided walking tours are given at 9

a.m. June 13 through August 20. Visitors should meet at the museum, located on the west ridge of the campus. The tour is limited to 30 people and lasts about 1½ hours. The walk will be cancelled if there is heavy rain or snow. Call 474-7581 for more details. On the tour, visitors will learn a little bit about the campus, view the *(See FAIRBANKS, page 23)*

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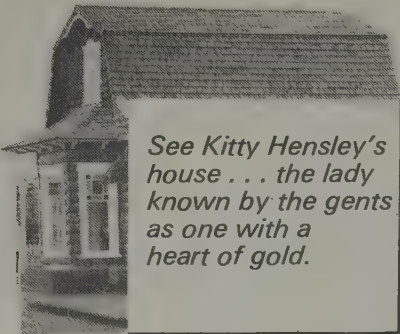
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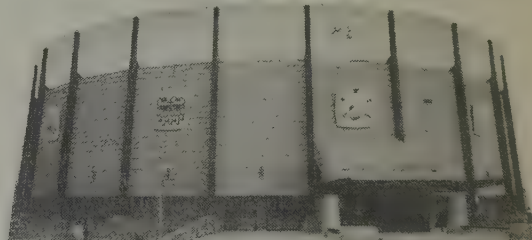


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## FAIRBANKS . . .

(Continued from page 22)

Alaska Range, and see giant cabages.

A self-guided tour map is also available for visitors who want to explore themselves. The maps are available at the downtown visitors center or at Wood Center on the UAF Campus.

Other tours are offered daily, including:

- A tour of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library. Meet at 2 p.m. on Mondays inside the library foyer. See the Machetanz lithographs, Alaskan collection and archival area of the state's best library.

- A tour of the Musk Ox Farm. Meet at 2 p.m. Tuesdays at the farm on Yankovich Road. See moose, reindeer, musk oxen and caribou.

- A tour of the Geophysical Institute.

Meet at 2 p.m. Thursdays in front of the Elvey Building, the tallest building on the West Ridge of the campus. See a movie on the aurora and tour the seismology and aerial photography labs.

- A tour of the Ag Experiment Station. Meet at 2 p.m. at the farm, located west of campus on the old Nena Highway. Visit the animals and hear about the many agricultural projects under way.

Call 474-NEWS for a daily recording or the UAF Public Affairs Office at 474-7581 for more information.

- Creamer's Field Hike.

The two-mile hike begins in a parking lot adjacent to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office on College Road, just minutes from downtown Fairbanks. There's plenty of parking.

The trail winds through the Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge, the site of an old dairy farm and a

common stopover point for migrating birds.

Brochures explaining the numbered trail markers, or vegetation and types of birds commonly seen along the path are available at the trail head or at fish and game offices.

In addition to birds, moose, hares, squirrels are common to the area.

During wet seasons through early June, it is recommended that visitors wear boots to keep feet dry and insect repellent to keep mosquitos at bay.

Among the most visible migrating visitors every spring are gray and brown Canadian geese who return annually from wintering grounds in northern California and Oregon to breeding grounds in northern Alaska.

More than 100 different types of birds can be seen along the path, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

Among the birds common to the Interior are: ravens, thrushes, hawks, sparrows, shorebirds, warblers, flycatchers, plovers and woodpeckers. The area is also home to moose and hares and red squirrels. The latter are among the most visible and loudest of the permanent residents of the refuge.

Their scolding chatter may be heard throughout the spruce forest.

For more information about the Creamer's Field area call the Department of Fish and Game at 452-1531.

According to 1980 census figures, the typical Alaskan is 26 years old and male. About 53 percent of the state's population is male, the highest percentage of any state. The percentage of females has been increasing in recent years. Only Utah, with a median age of 24.2 years has a younger population.



**CREAMER'S**—This farm on College Road in Fairbanks once provided milk to the community. The dairy operated by Charlie Creamer is closed now, but it's one of the sights on a popular two-mile nature walk which winds through the Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge.

(News-Miner file photo)

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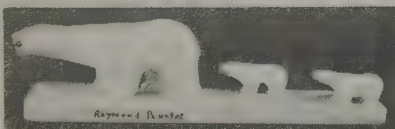
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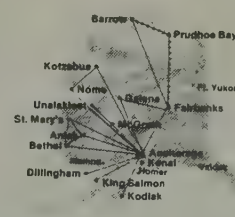
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## School began with six students

By DEBBIE CARTER  
Staff Writer

When the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines opened in 1922 the student body numbered six.

Enrollment this year has grown to more than 4,100 at the school that is now called the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Located on a bluff four miles northwest of Fairbanks, the university has grown into a major northern research center, studying everything from the aurora to reindeer.

It is the main campus for the University of Alaska system, which includes four-year colleges in Anchorage and Juneau and community colleges around the state.

About 100 of the students at the university this year were foreigners, and about one-fifth of the students came from out of state.

On the 2,250-acre campus are two lakes, 35 miles of ski trails and an arboretum. The concert hall and theater are among the finest in the Pacific Northwest.

The Fairbanks campus is also the university's main research center. The Geophysical Institute, first of the school's noted research institutes, opened in 1949. Other institutes specialize in agriculture, arctic biology, marine science, cross-cultural research and social and economic research.

Student guides lead walking tours



**FARTHEST NORTH COLLEGE**—The main campus of the University of Alaska overlooks the broad Tanana Valley from a hill four miles northwest of Fairbanks. The college opened its doors in 1922 on this same spot, but its most intensive growth occurred in the 1960s and early 1970s. Some 4,000 students from the 50 states and many foreign countries study everything from agriculture to zoology at the school.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

around the university on weekdays beginning at 9 a.m. The tours, which start at the University of Alaska Museum, are offered June 13 to August 19.

Buses for the university leave from downtown every 30 minutes, and the campus offers a shuttle bus service to West Ridge and the museum every 15 minutes.

While on the University campus, be sure to stop in at the museum on the

West Ridge. On a sunny day, you can get an excellent view of the Alaska Range and perhaps you might see Mount McKinley in the distance.

The museum traces its history to 1926 when Otto Geist was commissioned by the university first president, Charles Bunnell, to round up some Eskimo artifacts.

For 37 years, Geist, the self-taught archaeologist/anthropologist remained in the field. He collected

thousands of articles all over the state including a duckskin parka from St. Lawrence Island, Native clothes, mammoth bones, ivory carvings and harpoon heads. His take was the beginning and backbone of the University of Alaska Museum.

"He knew just about everyone in Alaska," said Dinah Larsen, curator of ethnography at the museum.

According to Museum Director (See SCHOOL, page 25)



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## SCHOOL . . .

(Continued from page 24)

Basil Hedrick, the museum now is the primary repository for natural history, ethnography, history and art in the state. With thousands of exhibits, it is designed to be a thorough introduction to the state.

More than 80,000 people visit the museum annually. For the past three years, it has been housed in a new building that bears Geist's name.

Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Because of its comprehensive northern collections and special emphasis on high latitudes, the museum has a standing nationally and internationally, said Hedrick. Several of the collections have received national recognition, such as the birds and mammal collections.

Animals on display at the museum include musk ox, wolves, black and polar bears, fur seals, sea otters, and the skull and right jawbone, and baleen, of a bowhead whale—one of the biggest animals on earth.

Broken into geographic regions, the museum includes a variety of materials, from Southeast, the Interior, Southcentral, the western arctic coast, and southwest.

The museum also features handiwork from the regions, including the delicate woven grass baskets of the Aleutians and colorful garb, mooseskin drawings, and curiosities, such as

a moose rack sofa. The "Interior section" includes a history of Fairbanks, goldmining and trapping.

The museum's history collection has more than 2,500 items including Russian-American material, mining equipment, household goods used in early Fairbanks, folk art, firearms and other items used by Alaska Native people from the turn of the century to the present. Artifacts include baskets, beadwork, ivory carvings, masks, games and toys.

An intricately etched tusk presented by the people of Fairbanks to then-President William Taft is the centerpiece of a large gold collection.

The museum also hosts traveling exhibits from other museums.

Shows planned this summer include:

- Toksook Bay, 1981: A collection of photographs by Don Doll, S.J.

- July 10-August 28: INUA Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimo, a traveling exhibit of the Smithsonian Institute.

- Sept. 10-Nov. 6: On and Of Paper: An Invitational Print Exhibit.

The museum store offers a wide selection of publications on the art, history, Native culture and natural history of the north.



**BEAR FACTS**—A towering Kodiak brown bear looks down from his perch at the University of Alaska Museum. The museum is open daily on the West Ridge of the UA campus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 474-7505.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)



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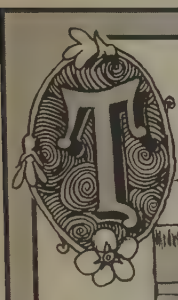


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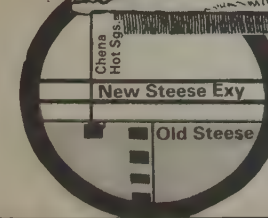
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**DREDGING THE PAST**—This gold dredge, one of several that operated in the Fairbanks area, now stands idle near Ester. The last of the mighty dredges closed in 1964, victims of low gold prices. The gold boom of the 1970s added new life to the local mining industry, but not to the dredges.  
*(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)*

# Dredging up the past

The last of the gold dredges has been silent for nearly 20 years, but visitors can get a closeup view of one of the old wooden and steel mining mainstays at 9 Mile Old Steese Highway.

Dredge No. 8, a 250-foot ship, was built by Bethlehem Shipbuilders in the summer of 1928. The five-deck ship displaced 1,065 tons and plied the gold pay zones of Goldstream and Engineer Creeks until it ceased operations in 1959.

This dredge and several others in the Fairbanks area removed millions of dollars worth of gold from the 1920s until the early 1960s.

Dredge No. 8, located 200 yards from the trans-Alaska pipeline pull-out, is being turned into a tourist attraction after sitting idle for many years. For \$5 you can take a tour of the

dredge and try your hand at gold panning on the site.

The first gold strike in the Fairbanks area was by Felix Pedro in 1902. Early day miners used pans and rocker boxes in their first attempts to get gold out of the ground. By 1909 a high percentage of the easily reached gold was gone and miners looked for new ways to get deeper into the ground.

The first dredge in this area was hand-built and put into operation in 1911 on Fairbanks creek. From then on the old-time mining methods gradually gave way to the new mechanical monsters.

No. 8, the dredge in Fox, was a pre-fabricated unit shipped to Fairbanks in pieces and assembled in the Gilmore-Fox Creek area for the Fair-  
*(See DREDGING, page 27)*

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# DREDGING . . .

(Continued from page 26)

banks Exploration Co., the area's major gold mining firm.

Floating in its own traveling pond, the dredge had a ladder of 70 steel buckets which ate through tons of gravel a day. Tailing piles in the Fox area stand as evidence of the machine's power.

The steel buckets, which weighed about 2,000 pounds each, had to be replaced after about 1,000 working days. The dredge could dig down to 35 feet below the water level as it worked its way up and down the valley in the never-ending search for gold.

An F.E. Company crew usually numbered about 15 men with a pair of extra firemen and one or two deckhands added during cool weather. The dredgemaster was the crew boss. Responsibility for the round-the-clock digging, which continued from early April to late October, fell on his shoulders.

The winchman's job was movement of the dredge and its accompanying lake down the gravel strip.

As the muck and gravel picked up by the buckets was dumped into the main hopper inside the dredge, it was washed by a high pressure stream of water. Then it continued down the length of the long steel trommel or tunnel, which turned continuously, screening the rock with multi-sized holes.

The gold bearing sands would fall through the holes to the sluices and the gold was caught with a combination of quicksilver and coco mat traps. More than 95 percent of the gold was said to have been recovered from the highly efficient dredges.

Clean-ups were made every two weeks.



**BUCKETS**—The business end of a gold dredge ran on these heavy duty 2,000-lb. buckets which scooped gravel out of tailing ponds. The gravel and muck picked up by the buckets was dumped into a big hopper to separate the gold.

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The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has awarded a construction contract to CJM Construction of Fairbanks for the expansion of the Fairbanks International Airport Terminal. This will result in some inconvenience to air travelers. The first phase will include revisions to the terminal entrance road and parking lot, to be completed this fall. To help reduce congestion please observe the following:

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# Three highways join wilderness with Fairbanks





## Sports fans find plenty to cheer here

By KEITH OLSON  
Sports Editor

Summer brings nearly 24 hours of daylight to Interior Alaska, and there are enough sporting events in the Fairbanks area to enjoy every minute of the "nightless" days.

Among the main summer sports attractions for spectators are two local semi-pro baseball teams, two local stock car dirt tracks, riverboat races and a full range of recreational leagues featuring soccer, rugby, slowpitch softball and youth baseball.

Those who are more doers than watchers may play golf on one of three local courses, ride a bicycle or jog along an extensive collection of bike paths, take part in a local running race, go ice skating or roller skating, swim at one of four area pools or bowl a few frames at the local bowling alley.

Here's a brief rundown on summer sports in Fairbanks:

• **ALASKA LEAGUE BASEBALL.** The Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks and the North Pole Nicks are two of six baseball teams that make up the Alaska League, known nationwide in baseball circles as the top summer league in the country. Anchorage has two teams in the league while Kenai and Palmer have one each.

Each spring, the six Alaska League teams recruit the top college players available for an eight-week season capped by an mid-summer tournament which determines qualifiers for



**BREAKING IT UP**—An Anchorage Glacier Pilot breaks up a double play at second base in a game against the Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks. You can catch the Goldpanners, a team featuring top college players from throughout the nation, in action at Growden Field. Check at the visitors center for game times. (News-Miner file photo)

the National Baseball Congress Tournament in Wichita, Kan.—the World Series of amateur baseball. The Goldpanners, starting their 24th season, have won five national titles and five straight Alaska League crowns.

Many Alaska League players have

gone on to play in the major leagues. The Goldpanners, for one, have had nearly 100 current or ex-major leaguers on their roster since the team's inception in 1960 including Tom Seaver, Dave Winfield, Dave Kingman, Steve Kemp, Floyd Bannister, Tim Wallach and Bob Boone.

Both the Goldpanners and the Nicks play their home games at Growden Memorial Park, located at the corner of Moore Street and Lower Second Avenue in Fairbanks. Although well attended, the games are rarely sold out, and general admission prices are

(See SPORTS, page 31)

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## SPORTS . . .

(Continued from page 30)

\$3 for adults and \$2.50 for students and senior citizens.

A highlight of the season is the Goldpanners' annual Midnight Sun Game, which starts at 11 p.m. on the longest day of the year and continues through the midnight hour without benefit of artificial lights. This year's Midnight Sun Classic pits the Goldpanners against their league rival from Anchorage, the Cook Inlet Bucs, on the evening of June 19th.

• **STOCK CAR RACING.** Stock car and modified races are held at the two area tracks every Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend with special events added for the Fourth of July and occasional mid-week programs.

The Greater Fairbanks Raceway at Taxi Way Avenue off Peger Road in Fairbanks offers a Sunday afternoon racing program that starts at 2 p.m. featuring competition in the A Stock, B Stock, Sportsman, Open Wheel and Women's divisions, plus flat track motorcycles. Admission prices are \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for juniors and \$10 for a families.

North Pole Speedway at 9-mile Badger Road near North Pole features a Saturday night racing program that starts at 7 p.m. with competition in Dollar Stock (a low-cost, no frills division), Late-Model Stock, A Stock, Women's Stock and Dune Buggy divisions. Other weekly attractions include spectator drags, three-wheeler races and mud challenges for off-road vehicles. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for juniors.

• **RIVERBOAT RACING.** Riverboat races are conducted locally by the Fairbanks Outboard Association. Most of the boats are custom built 22-footers powered by 50-horse outboard motors, and speeds in excess of 55 mph are not uncommon through the narrow river channels.

A highlight of the river-runners' season is the 800-mile Yukon 800 from Fairbanks to Galena and back on the Chena, Tanana and Yukon rivers. The race takes two days and attracts as big a following in Fairbanks as the North American Sled Dog Championships attract in the winter. This year's Yukon 800 is set for June 18-19 starting at Pike's Landing off Airport Way in Fairbanks.

Admission to the boat races is free and most races start and finish at

Pike's or the Chena Pump Campground off Chena Pump Road. Other local FOA races besides the Yukon 800 include the Businessmen's Race May 30 at Pike's, Nenana Lap Races June 4 at Nenana, Yukon 800 Shakedown June 5 at Nenana, Winner's Picnic Race July 3 at the Chena Pump Campground, Golden Days Mayor's Cup Races July 23 at Pike's, and the Lord Memorial Race Aug. 7 at Pike's.

• **GENERAL SPECTATOR SPORTS.** Fairbanksans are an active lot when it comes to recreational sports, and local teams are among the best in Alaska in youth baseball, slow-pitch softball, soccer and rugby. Admission to games is free, and spectators can find a game or tournament going on in town any night of the week.

Much of the softball-baseball action is concentrated in the Growden Park area which boasts several outstanding playing fields for softball, Little League, Pony League, Babe Ruth and American Legion baseball.

Youth and adult league soccer boasts more participants than any other Fairbanks summer sport.

The Fairbanks Sundawgs Rugby Football Union is in its second season, and spectators are welcome at any of the club's games or practices. Practices are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Sunday's on Fort Wainwright's Engineers Field, where the club also plays all of its home games. Spectators should check the Sports Slate in the Scoreboard Section of the Daily News-Miner for game dates.

• **SHOOTING.** A full slate of shooting events ranging from trap shoots and blackpowder shoots to high power metallic silhouette matches are scheduled in Fairbanks throughout the summer, and visitors are welcome to take part either as shooters or spectators. Weekly matches and starting times also may be found in the Sports Slate in the News-Miner sports section.

• **RUNNING RACES.** Local running clubs conduct weekend races through the summer and both competitive and novice runners are welcome to take part. Check the Sports Slate in the News-Miner for race dates.

• **BOWLING.** Arctic Bowl at 940 Cowles Street is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and lanes are available almost any day. League play takes up most of the 24 lanes on weekdays, but at least two lanes are reserved for recreation-

al bowlers. Interested persons are encouraged to call the local alley ahead of time at 456-7719 to see when lanes are available.

• **GOLF COURSES.** The three local golf courses are all open to the public and each is open seven days a week with rental equipment available and greens fees good for all day.

Greens fees at the Fairbanks Golf and Country Club at the corner of Yankovich and Ballaine roads are \$5.50 on weekdays and \$6 on weekends. The nine-hole course with sand greens is a narrow par 35 measuring about 3,000 yards. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Arctic Acres Golf Course at 7-mile Badger Road is built on a former homestead site that maintains much of its original landscaping. Water hazards are a particular challenge along the short par 31, nine-hole course that measures about 1,700 yards. Greens fees are \$8, and if the clubhouse is closed golfers may sign in at the store. Hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

The Chena Bend Golf Course on the Fort Wainwright Army Post—a nine-hole, par 36 measuring 6,559 yards—is the only regulation-size course in the area, and it has a double set of greens for variation on the back nine. Greens fees are \$10 for civilians and hours are 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

• **SWIMMING POOLS.** The Fairbanks North Star Borough operates three pools, all of which have posted hours for various conditioning or recreational swim classes.

Hamme Pool (456-2969) and the Mary Siah Rec Center Pool (456-6119) are both located next to Lathrop High School off Airport Way in Fairbanks, and Wescott Pool (488-9401) is located in North Pole next to North Pole Junior-Senior High School. Swimmers should call the pools or visit them ahead of time to check on fees and operating schedules.

Roller skating is available at the Northern Lights Roller Rink at nine-tenths mile Dennis Road off Badger Road near North Pole. The rink is open for public skating every day except Monday for daily evening sessions and some afternoon sessions. For more information on admissions, skate rental and session starting times call 488-9444.

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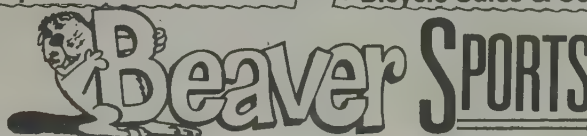


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# Catch the '83 Olympics right here

By VERA WELLS  
Staff Writer

Since 1961 Alaska Natives from throughout the state have gathered every summer to participate in the greased pole walk, the Muktuk eating contest, the ear pulling competition and other events at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics in Fairbanks.

More than 200 people are expected to participate in the Olympic games this summer, making them the largest Native cultural event in the state.

Originally started by two Wien Airways employees, Bud Hadberg and Frank Whaley, the games provide not only the opportunity for friendly competition, but they also give young people a chance to learn of Native traditions.

The games are July 28, 29 and 30 at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Patty Gymnasium.

Special events include the queen pageant, in which young Native women are judged on their knowledge of traditional Native culture and their general appearance, and the blanket toss. In the latter event a person is tossed in the air with a sewn bearded seal-skin supported by a group of people.

Ticket prices for the games are \$8 per night or \$15 per season for adults, and \$5 per night or \$10 per season for children ages two to 12. Tickets are available at the door.

The event for which competitors practice the most is probably the high kick, a difficult exercise in which an athlete must kick a suspended object over his head and land on his feet. The event isn't a meaningless exercise. Its origins can be traced back to the coastal whaling tradition.

At one time when a whale was caught a runner would come in off the ice to pass on the news. When the runner got on land, where people could see him, he would jump up and kick both feet in the air. Upon seeing this the people in the village knew a whale had been caught.

While high kick competitors must combine the flexibility of a

(See OLYMPICS, page 33)



**HIGH JUMP**—A contestant leaps high off the ground in the two-foot high kick at the Eskimo-Indian Olympics. The object of this sport is to kick the suspended pouch and land on your feet. At lower elevations, it's not hard, but the winners in the high kick can hit the pouch when it is 7 or 8 feet up.  
(News-Miner file photo)

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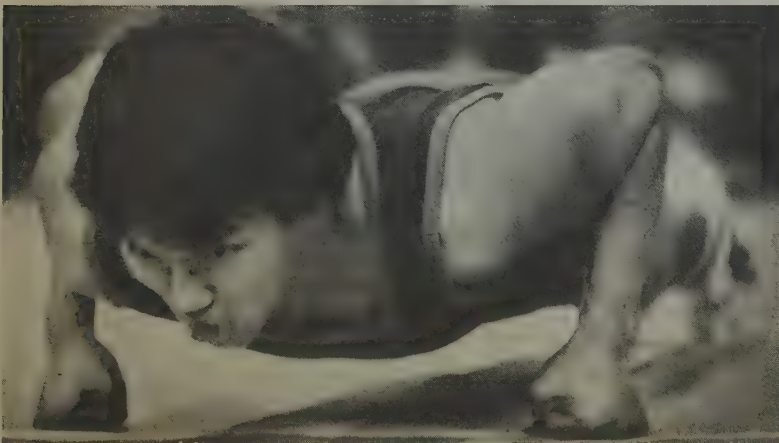
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**TOUGH KNUCKLES**—Rodney Worl competes in one of the toughest events at the Eskimo-Indian Olympics—the knuckle hop. In this event, the contestants imitate the movements of a seal out of water, hopping across the hardwood floor on their knuckles. Worl took first place in 1982, by traveling 127 feet before his hands could take no more.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

**BEAT GOES ON**—The World Eskimo-Indian Olympics attracts participants from throughout the state. The Point Hope Drummers entertain the crowd with traditional music, one of many Native groups which make the annual trip to Fairbanks. Point Hope is a town of 531, located north of Kotzebue on the Chukchi Sea.

(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

## OLYMPICS . . .

(Continued from page 32)

gymnast with the leaping ability of a high jumper, contestants in other sports require a different sort of ability.

In the ear pulling competition, two men sit on the floor facing each other with a loop of twine wrapped around an ear. They pull until one gives in. The tugging can be painful and it can cut an ear.

A recent winner of the ear pull, a man from Barrow, described his success this way: "In the wintertime I keep my eays frozen."

There is another event that can give you earaches just thinking about it: the ear weight.

The winner has to carry 16-pound weights with his ears for as far as he can—about 1,000 feet for the top contestants.

The Native games are important, participants say, for several reasons. Reggie Joule of Kotzebue, a major figure in the olympics, sees them as a way to keep the culture alive.

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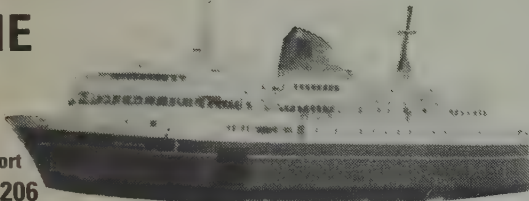
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# Summer in Alaska

Here is a schedule of summer events in Fairbanks, Northern Alaska and highway communities.

May 7-June 26—Toksook Bay, 1981; A Collection of Photographs by Don Doll, S.J., University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks.

May 30—Memorial Day Polar Bear Swim, Nome. More than two dozen fearless people will meet at the east end sea wall at 2 p.m. for the annual dip in the Bering Sea.

June 4—Tanana Raft Classic, Fairbanks. Participants build their own rafts and float 65 miles from Fairbanks to Nenana. Race starts at 6 a.m., Chena Pump Campground.

June 4, 5—Nenana River Daze, Nenana, a celebration coinciding with the Tanana Raft Classic featuring canoe races, a bluegrass festival and children's races. All activities take place along the river bank.

June 5—Flying Lions Air Show, Fairbanks. Spectacular events include sky diving, aerial exhibitions, and static displays of military, commercial, antique and experimental aircraft; Metro Field.

June 10-12—Nuchalawoyya Festival, Tanana. The people of Tanana gather for a weekend of traditional events including Athabaskan songs and dances, muskrat skinning, nail hammering and a greased pole walk.

June 18-19—Summer Solstice, Fairbanks. This annual event celebrates the longest days of the year with games, live entertainment and arts and crafts booths, Fairbanks Tanana Valley Fairgrounds, 2 Mile College Road.

June 18-19—Yukon 800 Riverboat Race, Fairbanks, an 800-mile riverboat race from Fairbanks to Galena and back on the Chena, Tanana and Yukon rivers; starts at 3 p.m. June 18 at Pike's Landing, off Airport Road near Fairbanks International Airport.

June 19-July 4—Midnight Sun Festival, Nome. Two weeks of enjoyment including the Nome River Raft Race, softball tournaments, a marathon, dances, a parade and street games.

June 19—Midnight Sun Baseball Game, Fairbanks, played without artificial lights. Game starts at 11 p.m., Growden Field. Alaska Goldpanners vs. the Cook Inlet Bucks. Admission: \$3.

June 19-25—Fifth Annual Midnight Sun Writers Conference, University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

June 22—First Annual Stroke and Croak Triathlon, Nome. Athletic competition consisting of a one-mile swim, four-mile run and an eight-mile bike course. Open to all. Held at the Beltz High School Life Saving Facility.

July 4—Fourth of July celebration,

Kotzebue. A festival of beauty contests, parka judging, baby contests, races and a parade.

July 4—Old Fashioned 4th of July, Nenana. Residents turn out on Main Street for a pie-eating contest, three-legged race, bicycle racing and much more.

July 4—Fourth of July Celebration, Tok, a day filled with events including baby and pie contests, a parade and a picnic lunch at noon.

July 7-10—Trade Fair, Kotzebue, three days of traditional games, clothing contests, kayak races, and dance competition between natives from the North Slope, Bering Strait and St. Lawrence regions.

July 10—KCBF Bike Race, over 50 miles from Fairbanks to Nenana. Participants assemble at Patty Gym parking lot, University of Alaska campus.

July 10-Aug. 28—INUA: Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimo, Fairbanks. An exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute, University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks campus.

July 19-24—Golden Days, Fairbanks. Annual event in which Fairbanks marks Felix Pedro's 1902 discovery of gold 16 miles north of town. The week's activities include a family picnic, Starving Artists Sale, trade fair, two parades, Pioneers Tea, Pedro's monument rededication and much more.

July 23-24—Farthest North 26th Annual Flowershow, Fairbanks. Alaska National Bank of the North, Fourth and Lacey Streets.

July 29-31—World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, Fairbanks, annual competitive games among various Native villages. Traditional games include weight lift, ear pull, greased pole walking and seal skinning. Patty Gym, University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

July 25-August 5—Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus. The two-week festival features classes, rehearsals and workshops in dance, voice and instrument from jazz to classical music. Among the 31 guest artists are well-known vocalist Chris Calloway, Boston Pops Percussionist Fred Buda and the Philadelphia String Quartet.

Aug. 5-7—Deltana Fair, Delta. A local fair featuring arts, crafts and food booths, entertainment, pancake breakfast and carnival; Delta School grounds.

Aug. 6-28—Silver Salmon Derby, Valdez, features daily, mystery and grand prizes.

Aug. 10-14—Gold Rush Days, Valdez. This five-day festival features a parade, dance, fish fry, roving jail, art and photography displays and can-can girls.



**FAIR TIME**—Nearly everyone in Fairbanks goes to the Tanana Valley Fair in mid-August. By then it's starts getting dark late at night, but no one minds. Visitors are welcome. (News-Miner file photo)

Aug. 16-21—Tanana Valley Fair, Fairbanks. An agricultural and community fair hosting 60 food concessions, commercial exhibits, livestock and craft booths. Located at the Tanana Valley Fair Grounds, 2 Mile College Road.

Mid-June—Nalukatak Whaling Festival, Barrow. One-day event in which residents and visitors dine on whale delicacies and celebrate the whaling season. Both children and adults join in the blanket toss and Eskimo dancing throughout the day.

June, July and August—free art exhibits sponsored by the Alaska Asso-

ciation for the Arts; Alaskaland Civic Center Gallery. Featured are stained glass, photography and painting displays. The gallery is open from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, including holidays.

June, July and August—Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noel Wien Library auditorium in Fairbanks: "Time Out At Noon," from noon to 1 p.m., an arts series featuring local artists. Bring your lunch and enjoy dancers, singers, musicians and dramatic readings. Performances are free to the public, sponsored by the Alaska Association for the Arts with a grant from Sohio.



**LOW CLOUDS**—Hikers head up Glacier Creek on an evening hike in Denali National Park. If you go out hiking

remember weather conditions can change rapidly so it's best to be prepared. Summer snows are not unheard of. (Staff photo by Eric Muehling)





**CITY CENTER**—Downtown Fairbanks is undergoing a face lift this summer. A development authority established by the city government is clearing the Second Ave-

nue bar block to make way for a new hotel/convention center. While negotiations for the hotel proceed, the area is being used for parking.  
(Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

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### Fairbanks lodging

Alaska Motel—1546 Cushman St., 456-6393; single \$39.50, double \$42, kitchenettes available

Alaska Motor Inn—419 Fourth Ave., 456-5414, call for rates

Aurora Motel—2016 College Road, 456-7361; single \$30, double \$30

Captain Barlett Inn—1411 Airport Way, 452-1888; single \$68.90, double \$75.26

Chena View Hotel—723 First Ave., 452-6661; call for rates

Fairbanks Bed & Breakfast—Call 452-4967 for information or check-in at Alaska Railroad depot 12 noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and express train arrival. Guest rooms: \$25 for one, \$35 for two; apartments start at \$50.

Fairbanks Hotel—517 Third Ave., 456-6440; single \$25, double \$31

Golden North Motel—4888 Airport Road, 479-6201; single \$40, double \$60

Golden Nugget Motel—900 Noble St., 452-5141; single \$74, double \$79

Klondike Inn—1316 Bedrock, 479-6241; call for rates

Maranatha Inn—1100 Cushman St., 452-4421; single \$58.30, double \$68.90

Pioneer Hotel—122 Noble St., 456-2600; call for rates

Polaris Hotel—427 First Ave., 452-4456; single \$62.54, double \$67.84

Ranch Motel—2223 Cushman St., 452-4783; call for rates

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### Campgrounds

#### Fairbanks

Monson Motel Campground, 1321 Karen Way, 479-6770

Norlite Campgrounds, 1660 Peger Road, 452-4206

Tanana Valley Campground, 2 Mile College Road, 452-3750

Fairbanks Youth Hostel Camp-

ground at the Musher's Field, Farmer's Loop Road.

#### Steese Highway

Chatanika Campground, 39 Mile Steese Hwy

Long Creek Lodge, 45 Mile Steese Hwy., 452-8800

Rainbow Valley Recreational Vehicle Court, New Steese and Chena Hot Springs Road, 452-8891

#### Chena Hot Springs Road

Chena River Recreational Area, Mile 26 through Mile 51, Chena Hot Springs Road

Chena Hot Springs, 57 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road, 452-7867

#### Richardson Highway

##### Fairbanks to North Pole

Know/Wescott Gardens, 6½ Mile Richardson Hwy., 488-6858

Roads End Trailer Park, 1463 Westcott Garden Lane, North Pole, 488-0295

North Pole Park, Fifth Ave., North Pole, 456-6683

Santa Clause House, 12 Mile Richardson Hwy., North Pole, 488-2200

Harding Lake Recreational Area, 42 Mile Richardson Hwy.

#### Richardson Highway

##### Valdez to Delta Junction

Valdez Glacier Campground, turn off at Mile 3.4

Blueberry Lake wayside, turn off at Mile 24.1

Little Tonsina River state wayside, Mile 65.2

Squirrel Creek State Campground, Mile 79.4

Dry Creek State Campground, Mile 118

Sourdough Creek State Campground, Mile 147.4

Paxon Lake Campground, Mile 175

Summit Lake Lodge, Mile 195

Fielding Lake Campground, Mile 200

Donnelley Creek State Campground, Mile 237

#### Parks Highway

Green Ridge Camper Park, Mile 39.5, 376-5899

Finger Lake state wayside, Mile 41.2. Turn on Crusey St. drive 3.7 miles via Crusey St. and Bogard Road

Houston city campground, Mile 57.3

Nancy Lake state wayside, turn off at Mile 67.2

Willow wayside, turn off at Mile 71.2, 0.8 mile east of Parks Highway

Willow Creek wayside, turn off at Mile 71.2, 1.1 miles east of Parks Highway

Montana Creek campground, Mile 96.6

Big Susitna River state wayside, Mile 104.3

Byers Lake wayside, Mile 147

East Fork rest area, Mile 185.7

Denali National Park, Mile 237.3, 683-2294

McKinley KOA Kampground, Mile 248.5 Parks Hwy., Healy, 832-2379

Summer Shades Campground, Mile 290 Parks Hwy., 832-5418

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## Bus system covers much of Fairbanks

If you're tired of walking around town, there are alternatives.

Try using the bus system operated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough. It's an inexpensive and convenient way to get from here to there.

All buses stop at the bus center at Cushman Street on Fifth Avenue. You can get route maps and schedules there and in many other spots.

Two buses go to the University of Alaska and others make periodic trips to various parts of the city. One bus runs between Fairbanks and North Pole, while another goes 25 miles out of town on Chena Hot Springs Road.

It costs \$1 to get on the bus system. That entitles you to make transfers for 1½ hours in one direction only—no return trips. You can buy bus tokens in rolls of 10 for \$7.50. Monthly passes for unlimited rides are \$30.00.

Senior citizens, children between six and 12 and handicapped persons ride for 50 cents.

The bus system operates six days a week from morning to evening. The frequency of trips varies throughout the day. Drivers do not carry change so make sure you get it before the bus arrives.

For more information call 456-3279 weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Another way of getting around town is to call a taxi. The city de-regulated the cab business a few years ago, a move which has led to a big increase in the number of taxis and cab companies.

There have been complaints about overcharging, so exercise caution when you flag a cab. Most drivers are honest, but the old saying "Let the buyer beware" applies here.

Check with your hotel or the visitors center for help.





**DENALI**—The north face of 20,320-foot Denali, (as Mount McKinley is known officially by the state of Alaska) is seen from a glacial pool near Wonder Lake. The cow moose is feeding on vegetation on the bottom of the pool. This photo

was taken from the park road in a national park which is rich in wildlife and flowers. Denali, said to mean the "high one," is the original Indian name for the mountain.

(Photo by Bob and Ira Spring)



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# Denali 'high'. on any list of attractions

By SUSAN FISHER  
Staff Writer

More than 300,000 visitors will make their way through the gates of Denali National Park and Preserve this summer.

A just-completed auditorium adjacent to the park hotel near the entrance off the Parks Highway tops the list of new attractions this year.

The 299-seat auditorium features films, slides, speakers and programs throughout the summer. Schedules can be checked through visitor information centers or by calling the park office, 683-2294.

The park service also produces The Denali Alpenglow, a newspaper detailing facilities, services and information for visitors.

With passage of the 1980 federal Alaska Lands Act, the size of the former Mount McKinley National Park was greatly enlarged. The expanded park itself plus the preserve totals 5,695,000 acres—roughly the size of the state of Massachusetts.

All of the facilities and conveniences are at the park entrance. After that you're on your own. There are no restaurants or lounges. Dogs are not allowed in the backcountry.

It is advisable to take a pair of binoculars and a camera with a telephoto lens to get the most out of your trip to the park.

For those unfamiliar with Denali, here's a quick rundown of what's available:

- Limited campsites on a first-



**RUTH GLACIER**—If you see the summit of Denali or Mount McKinley, consider yourself fortunate. The mountain is often hidden by clouds and the only place many visitors see it is on a postcard. This photo was taken on a sunny day with the Ruth Glacier in the foreground and Denali to the rear.

(News-Miner file photo)

come, first-served basis, mostly primitive and none with electrical hookups.

- A low-cost hostel arrangement in old railroad cars featuring 30 beds, also first-come, first-served with a time limit on stays.

- One hotel in which reservations are a must during the busy summer months.

- Free bus trips through the park are provided every half hour from 6 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., then a bus at 5 p.m., with a final run for overnight travelers at 8 p.m. You may stop and get off anytime, but the heavy demand in mid and late summer may make it difficult to find room on returning buses.

- Backcountry camping permits

on a limited basis, also first-come first-served.

- Fishing is permitted, but the glacially-fed streams are not particularly good for anglers.

- Hunting is not allowed within park boundaries, but is permitted in designated areas of the preserve.

(See DENALI, page 39)

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**ARRIGETCH PEAKS**—The Gates of the Arctic National Park north of Fairbanks offers spectacular scenery to the visitor who can afford it. This is a view of the Arrigetch

Peaks, a group of mountains 6,000 to 7,000-foot-tall. The Eskimo name is said to mean "extended fingers." It was reported by author Robert Marshall in 1931.

(National Park Service photo by Bob Belous)



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# Parks give plenty of room to roam

For the adventurous and those willing to enjoy the splendor and rigors of the wilderness, the new national parks in Alaska have all that to offer and more, but it can be costly.

Congress passed the Alaska Lands Act in 1980, a major piece of legislation that reshaped the state, setting aside 106 million acres as federal parklands.

Of the total, more than 40 million acres were designated in national park or national preserve status.

Management plans are still being written for these massive new park and preserve areas. To get to most of them you have to charter a plane. Once there, you are totally on your

own. Planning is everything when it comes to visiting a remote park.

Here's a summary of these new national parks and preserves in northern Alaska:

- **Gates of the Arctic National Park:** an 8.2-million-acre area in the central Brooks Range. The closest settlement is Bettles, 20 miles south of the southernmost park boundary, where there are lodge and store facilities. Scheduled airlines travel to Bettles, where small aircraft can be chartered to land at various lakes and airstrips within the park.

- **Noatak National Preserve:** Adjacent to Gates of the Arctic, this 6.4-million-acre area in the Brooks

Range contains a 105-mile stretch of the Noatak River. A two-week float trip down the river is popular for the spectacular scenery and wildlife. Access is by airline to Kotzebue, then by chartering a two-to-three hour flight to the preserve.

- **Kobuk Valley National Park:** This 1.7-million-acre area is just south of Noatak. Hikers can walk in from Ambler or Kiana.

- **Bering Land Bridge National Preserve:** Located on the north side of the Seward Peninsula. You get there by taking a charter aircraft from Nome or Kotzebue, or bush flights to Deering. This may be the spot where early hunters entered

North America from Asia, and for that reason this is a popular attraction for history and archeology buffs.

- **Yukon-Charley National Preserve:** The historic mining towns of Eagle and Circle are adjacent to this 1.7-million-acre area, which gets its name from the juncture of the Charley River flowing north into the Yukon River. There is road access to this area west on the Steese Highway and east by the Taylor Highway.

- **Cape Krusenstern National Monument:** This 560,000-acre area is located on Kotzebue Sound, and can be reached out of Kotzebue by taking a small charter plane to land on rough airstrips or beaches.

## DENALI . . .

(Continued from page 37)

Check with the park service.

- Guided hikes and nature programs are available.

Mount McKinley, known by the state as Denali, meaning the "high one," literally stands as Alaska's biggest attraction. At 20,320 feet, it is also the tallest peak on the North American continent.

A park road winds from the entrance 84 miles to Wonder Lake at the base of Denali. The road covers just a small part of the vast park. Cars and vehicles are not permitted past Savage River, about 12 miles from the entrance, unless the driver holds a camping permit. Otherwise, visitors ride the park buses.

Visitors choosing to take the Alaska Railroad from Fairbanks or Anchorage will find the depot near the park hotel complex and information center.

Memorial Day weekend is the traditional opening of the park's summer season.

All you have to do is flag down a bus to get on and let the driver know when you want to get off.

Campsites cannot be reserved, with one exception. There is a group campsite available for groups from 7-20 at the Teklanika site.

Campgrounds and number of spaces within the park are: Riley Creek (102), Savage River (29), Sanctuary (7), Teklanika (50), Igloo Creek (7) and Wonder Lake (20).

## Pick a trail and take a hike

There are several good trails near Fairbanks for hikers who want to get away from it all for an afternoon or a few days.

- **The Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail:** This trail runs 24 miles between 12 Mile Summit and Eagle Summit on the Steese Highway and provides a good view of the mid-night sun on clear evenings in late June. The trail leaves the Steese Highway at Mile 86.

- **White Mountain Trail:** This route leaves the Elliott Highway at Mile 28 and goes 20 miles to a large public cabin maintained on Beaver Creek. The trip to the cabin ends with a cold trip across the 40-foot-wide creek. The Bureau of Land Management can provide more information about the White Mountain and Pinnell trails. Call BLM at 356-2025.

- **Granite Tors Trail:** At 40 Mile Chena Hot Springs Road, this trail begins with a six-mile climb to a ridge above timberline south of the highway. At the top you find a vast network of ridges capped with groups of granite spires jutting 20 to 30 feet off the ground. The state is working on another trail off Chena Hot Springs Road which leaves the highway at about 51 Mile and makes a 30-mile loop. For more information about either of these trails call the state Division of Parks at 479-4136.

In general, hiking in Alaska requires more preparation than in the Lower 48. You'll probably need a bet-

ter quality tent than is necessary in many areas because of the occasional harsh weather and mosquitoes.

The lack of firewood on many ridge-top trails means you must carry a small gasoline or kerosene stove. You probably should carry water because on high trails, it is difficult to find a good supply.

Boil any water you get from streams.

Some experienced outdoors travelers carry firearms for bear protection during the summer. For those in a canoe, the short-barreled 12-gauge shotgun is popular, while backpackers carry pistols at least as big as a .357 Magnum.

Since bringing pistols into Alaska through Canada or via the airlines is difficult, most tourists go without guns and complete their trips safely by taking the standard bear precautions: Place your campsite carefully.

Keep food out of your tent. Be careful with garbage. Wear a bell or make a lot of noise when going through dense brush.

The dog repellent "Halt" is said to be effective at short range. For more information on bears and other wildlife call the state Department of Fish and Game at 452-1531.

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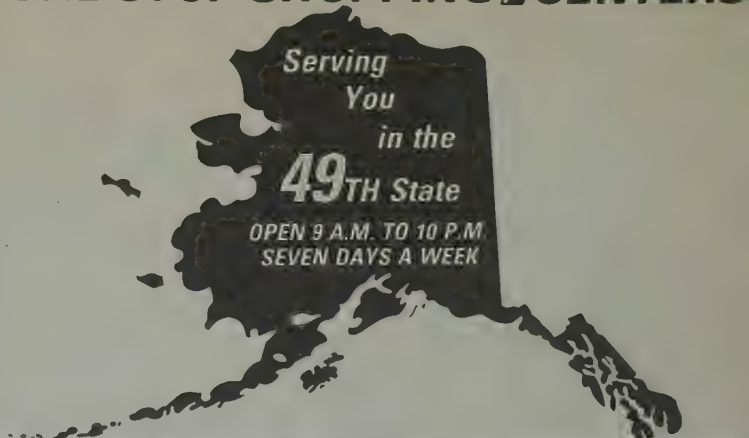
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# Grab a paddle and go canoeing

Interior Alaska offers canoeing and kayaking opportunities that range from placid rivers to the most challenging waters in North America.

A canoe can offer a visitor a unique transportation avenue through the most wild parts of Alaska.

Some possibilities in the Fairbanks area include:

- **Tanana River.** Those seeking a long look at Interior Alaska can take five days to run the Tanana River between Delta and Fairbanks, or as far downstream as Nenana. The river is broad, with a swift current, and the glacial run-off water means you will have to carry your drinking water or seek it out in tributary streams.

While the Tanana has no white water, it requires constant attention to sweepers and strong cross-currents.

- **Birch Creek.** Another trip for those who have more than a week to spare is Birch Creek. It crosses the Steese Highway 94 miles north of Fairbanks and meets the highway again at Mile 147, with 150 river miles in between.

Included in that 150 miles is 140 miles of Class II rapids with one stretch of Class III rapids which must be approached carefully in open canoes.

- **Clearwater River.** The Clearwater is perhaps the easiest river venture for a tourist coming up the Alaska Highway, and it gives a brief look at two different types of Interior rivers. A right turn on Jack Warren Road north of Delta Junction leads to the put-in point at the Clearwater Lodge and state campground 12 miles east. The Clearwater is spring-fed, and it



**PULLING**—A canoeist struggles through a turn on a fairly quick stretch of water. No matter how hot the air gets, most Alaska rivers have a water temperature in the high 30s—cold enough to be life threatening. Life vests are mandatory. Death can result if you don't get into dry clothes and next to a warm fire quickly after taking an unexpected dunk.

(News-Miner file photo)

admirably lives up to its name. A normal paddler will take about three hours to reach the point where the river runs into the Tanana, and four

hours more paddling will bring one to the bridge where the Richardson Highway crosses the Tanana, just six miles north of the Jack Warren Road intersection.

During the right times of the year

the Clearwater and nearby Clearwater Lake provide good waterfowl viewing.

- **Chatanika River.** The Chatanika River runs parallel to the Steese Highway.

(See CANOEING, page 41)

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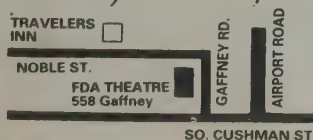
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**HEAVY LOAD**—Two canoeists head to the water. On many Alaska trips, portaging is to be expected. Check the route conditions before you go.

(News-Miner file photo)

## CANOEING . . .

(Continued from page 40)

way for 36 miles north of Chatanika, then makes a 10-mile run west to cross the Elliot Highway 10 miles north of Fox. There are numerous put-in and take-out points along the Steese.

- **Chena River.** The Chena River is a placid, twisting stream with sweepers and log-jams. It can be reached from numerous points where it flows through Fairbanks, or a three-day trip to town may be started at Mile 40 on the Chena Hot Springs Road.

The adventuresome who make the proper reservations with the Alaska Railroad can put a canoe in on the Chena in downtown Fairbanks, float two days down the Tanana River to Nenana and return on the railroad.

Canoes may be rented from:

- **Canoe Alaska**, which is run out of a residence at 1738 Hilton Ave., rents heavy-duty ABS canoes for \$25 for the first day and \$15 for each day after that. The weekly rate is \$95. Included with this are three paddles, two life jackets and block carriers to place the canoe on a car. Phone: 456-8198.

- **Beaver Sports** at 2400 College Road rents Coleman plastic canoes for \$15 the first day, \$10 each for the second and third days and \$5 a day after that. A Grumman or Old Town canoe costs \$25 for the first day, \$15 each for the second and third day and \$10 a day after that.

The rental includes two paddles. Extra paddles and life jackets are rented separately. Phone: 479-2494.

- **Charlie River Canoe Sales** at Mile 6.5 New Richardson Highway rents Mad River and Lincoln for \$25 the first day and \$15 for each additional day. A three-day "weekend" costs \$50, and the weekly rate is \$75. The price includes three paddles, two life vests and a cartop carrier. Phone: 488-6990.

- **Chena River Floats** at Alaska-land provides inflatable two-person canoes for rent for river travelers who want to take an easy trip down the slow-moving Chena River. Renters can float to the Pump House, a former pumping station which has been converted to a restaurant and is a national historic site, paddle back upstream or take the borough bus back to town.

Rates are \$15 for the first two hours and \$5 for each additional hour. It takes from one to two hours to get to the Pump House. Rental rates include paddles and life jackets. Chena River Floats, owned by Jim Campbell and Carol Kasza, also has three-person canoes available, which can carry two adults and a child.

The firm also plans to have bicycles for rent for trips around town or on the extensive system of bike paths in Fairbanks. For more information, call Alaskaland at 452-4244.

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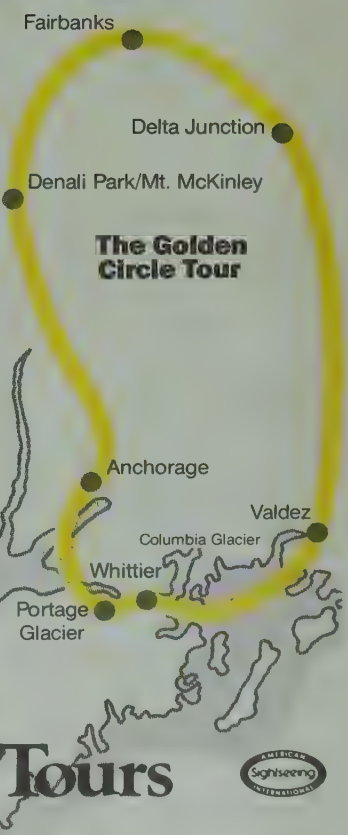
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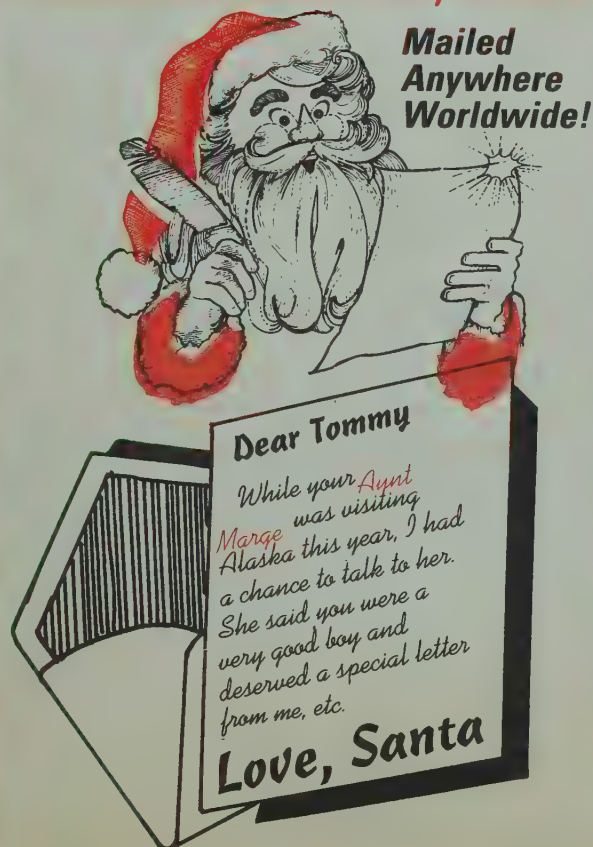


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Alaska Wilderness Adventures—float trips in central and western Brooks Range, also combination hiking and photography trips and sportfishing trips; Box 3, Kotzebue, AK 99752, 442-3498.

The Arctic Guide Association—river and backpacking trips, nature and landscape photography, sportfishing and custom trips in the central and westcentral Brooks Range; Bettles, AK, 99726.

Arctic Tern Water Trails—Sportfishing for pike, grayling, sheefish and salmon in season; 452-1166, ext. 7027.

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Chena River Floats, Fairbanks—take a trip through Fairbanks on an inflatable canoe, at Alaskaland every day from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Chuck Carpenter's Watershed River Journeys—452-4949.

Circle North River Trips—fishing trips along the Porcupine, Kandik, Charley and Yukon rivers; Circle, AK 99733.

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Kobuk River Company—day tours of Kiana, an Eskimo village in North-western Alaska, plus recreational excursions to remote cabins along the Kobuk River; Box 2, Kiana, AK 99749, 475-2177.

McKinley Raft Tours—white water rafting one mile north of Mt. McKinley Park entrance, Mile 238 on the Parks Highway; Box 138 McKinley, AK 99755, 683-2392.

R & L Enterprises—various raft and canoe trips; Box 86, Tok, AK 99780 or General Delivery, Delta Junction.

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Ruby Roadhouse—canoe, raft and riverboat tours on the Melozitna, Yukon, Nowitna or Yuki rivers; Box 6, Ruby, AK 99768, 468-4400.

Sourdough Outfitters—outfitted wilderness river trips in central Brooks Range; Box 18, Bettles, AK 99726, 692-5232.

Tatonduk Outfitters—rafts trips on the Yukon, Porcupine, Charles and Fortymile rivers; P.O. Box 55, Eagle, AK 99738, 459-8001.

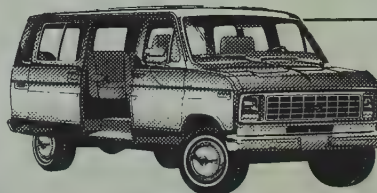
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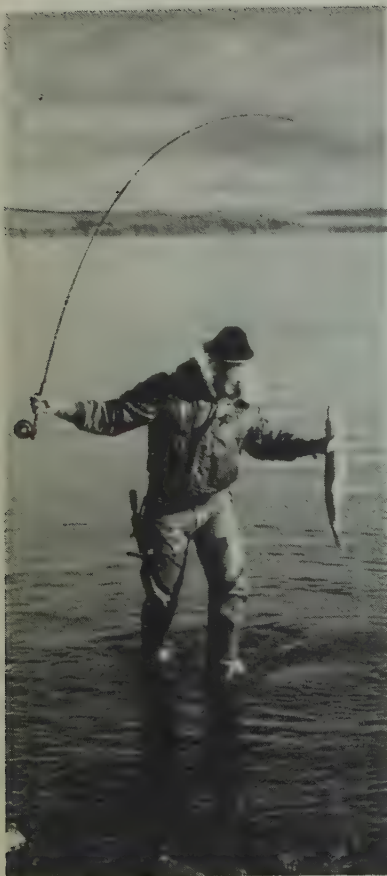
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# Get the fight of your life before 'big one gets away'

There are plenty of good sources when it comes to figuring out where, when and how to fish in Interior and Northern Alaska, but double-check to make sure you're not getting a fish tale.

"The Milepost," a good source for information about the state in general, includes some Alaskan fishing information, as do other specialty magazines and publications.

Questions can also be directed to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fish Division, at 1300 College Road in Fairbanks. Call 452-1531 for more fishing information.

Be forewarned that some of the best fishing spots are in remote lakes and rivers and charter flights are the only way to get there. Fly-in fishing can be an expensive proposition, but the scenery, wilderness experiences and fantastic catches more than compensate if you're an avid fisherman.

Fishing licenses are sold by a number of vendors, primarily sporting goods stores. A license is required for all species in both fresh and salt water.

License fees have been revised this year. Non-resident fees are \$36, with shorter term licenses covering 14 days for \$20; or three days for \$10. Stamps are no longer required for salmon or steelhead. Resident licenses are \$10.

Arctic grayling abound in the Interior, although they do not reach the large sizes commonly found in more remote areas.

Grayling can be considered something of an Alaskan specialty in that these fish are found only in northern latitudes. It is a true cold water species, preferring clear, cold streams and lakes. It has a large dorsal fin and forked tail. Body color is dark purplish on the back with iridescent green-gray sides.

A white-meat fish, the grayling is highly susceptible to artificial flies. For those not wishing or having time to venture far from Fairbanks, grayling fishing is popular in the Chena Recreation Area accessible from Chena Hot Springs Road. Grayling fishing starts about the first of June and continues through September.

Salmon generally are fished in or near saltwater areas, where the runs are stronger and the fish tend to be larger and in better condition before making spawning runs in rivers.

King salmon fishing in this region is best generally around July 1-20. Coho salmon fishing takes place about mid-September to the first of November.

Other guidelines by species for the Interior are: northern pike, July 1 to the end of September; burbot, year-round; lake trout, July 1 to Sept. 30; rainbow trout, year-round.

The arctic char is not found within the Interior, but fishermen here do travel to the coast to fish for these close relatives of the Dolly Varden.

Nearby fishing spots accessible by road are Quartz Lake near Delta

Junction and Birch Lake, 60 miles south of Fairbanks, both for rainbow trout; Harding Lake, 40 miles south of Fairbanks, for lake trout, northern pike, burbot and silver salmon.

Close fly-in spots are the series of lakes in the Minto Flats area and the upper Chatanika River, for sheefish.

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The state's minimum requirements by species to compete for the sport trophies of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are:

Species	Weight (in pounds)
Burbot	8
Char/Dolly Varden	10
Chum (dog) salmon	15
Coho (silver) salmon	20
Cutthroat trout	3
Grayling	3
Halibut	200
Lake trout	20
Pink (humpback) salmon	9
Rainbow trout/steelhead	15
Red (sockeye) salmon	12
Sheefish	30
Whitefish	4
King Salmon, Cook Inlet	70
King Salmon, other areas	50

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Travelers Inn	4:58	5:43	6:28	7:13 7:58
Fairbanks Inn	5:05	5:50	6:35	7:20 8:05
Captain Bartlett	5:10	5:55	6:40	7:25 8:10
Alaskaland	5:15	6:00	6:45	7:30 8:15

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# Summer picking is 'berry' good

By VERA WELLS  
Staff Writer

For years wild berries in the Interior have been the major source of vitamin C for many people throughout Alaska, and even today people still enjoy the rich taste of wild blueberries, raspberries, cranberries or other fruits that grow in abundance.

The most popular:

**Blueberries.** A favorite Alaskan fruit, blueberries can be found in boggy areas and on south facing slopes. The berries start ripening in late July and are at their prime until the middle of August, depending on the weather and location. Although they make excellent pies, jams, jellies and muffins, they can also be eaten raw or frozen.

**Raspberries.** The raspberry can be found in many locations. It grows on a thorny bush in cleared areas and along berm piles and roads. It is available from late summer through early fall. Raspberries can be eaten raw and make excellent jams, jellies and desserts.

**Lowbush cranberries.** These berries grow on boggy and peaty soil and on mossy hummocks in the woods, especially near lakes and ponds. The

berries ripen in the fall and persist over the winter. They can be eaten raw or cooked and can be used in a multitude of different ways, such as for jam, jellies, breads and sauces.

**Highbush cranberries.** These berries are found in woods and thickets or on gravelly or rocky banks. The cranberry bush grows up to eight feet tall. The berry is red or orange and has a flattened, yellowish pit. Highbush cranberries are generally used for making jelly. The berries can be musty in odor and taste but if picked before the first frost, just before the true ripe stage, they are more acid and have a better flavor.

Novice berry pickers should be careful to avoid mistaking highbush cranberries for the state's only poisonous berry, the baneberry, or snakeberry. Baneberries are round, either red or white, and contain many very small black seeds. It is important to remember that if a red berry growing on a tall bush is filled with tiny black seeds, it is poisonous and should not be eaten.

Another difference between the two berries is that fully ripened highbush cranberries are almost translucent while baneberries are opaque.

**Alaskan blackberries.** This berry is found throughout the state in damp areas on tundra and muskeg. It grows along the ground and has leaves that resemble pine needles. Blackberries are often mixed with other berries, especially blueberries, and make good pies and jelly. Blackberries also ripen in the fall.

**Rose Hips.** These berries are one of the best native sources of vitamin C. Six to eight rose hips can provide the daily vitamin C requirement of the average person. Rose hips are so rich in the vitamin that properly made juice, jams and jellies will retain enough of it to be the chief source over the winter. Rosehips should be picked after the first frost.

For more information on Alaska's wild berries, get copies of "Wildlife



**SUMMER DELIGHT**—Sam Baker shows blueberries he just picked near Fairbanks. (Staff photo by Eric Muehling)

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tension Service, Alaska's Sportsman Mall Building, 1514 S. Cushman St. Room 303, Fairbanks, telephone 452-1548 or 452-1530. The first booklet is \$1.50 and the second is \$2.

## Ice stays put in the Big Dipper

It may be summer, but you can still go ice skating if you like.

The Big Dipper at 19th Avenue and Lathrop Street has year-round skating on artificial ice. Call 456-4218 for rental times and information. The state spent several million dollars in 1982 renovating the Big Dipper, which used to be an airplane hangar, to turn it into one of the finest ice arenas in the Pacific Northwest.

The University of Alaska also has

an indoor rink on the UA campus. Skaters can get more information on hours and fees by calling 474-7780.

The ten longest rivers in Alaska in descending order are: Yukon, 1,875 miles; Porcupine, 555 miles; Koyukuk, 554; Kuskokwim, 540 miles; Tanana, 531 miles; Innoko, 463 miles; Colville, 428 miles; Noatak, 396 miles; Kobuk, 347 miles; Birch Creek, 314 miles.

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# In Alaska some like it real hot

By TRICIA OLSEN  
Staff Writer

Imagine the surprise of the dusty miner who first stumbled across, or into, one of the steamy mineral hot springs in the heart of Alaska.

If he was a summer traveler he probably wouldn't have minded the bath and the temporary escape from the mosquitos. But a wintertime spill into a pool might have been a real heart stopper.

When the air is a snappy 40 degrees below zero, hot springs water entering the pools can be a toasty 200 degrees warmer, creating a steam screen that almost obliterates the view. On winter days nearby trees are coated with a white frost that gives the area surrounding the pond a fairy-land look.

But summer or winter, trips to a hot springs are just as popular now as they were with the miners who probably found the natural bathtubs a relief beyond their wildest dreams.

Hot springs veterans have the pool entry method down to a science. Forget about the days when you used to take a running dive into the water for a refreshing jolt. In Alaska, we use the toe-first method that includes rapid exhaling of small puffs of air.

Untanned skin can take on a reddish tinge quickly, considering the water leaves the ground at 156 degrees. But don't worry, cold water is added for the benefit of those who prefer a relaxing soak, not a challenge of the flesh.

Visitors to the Interior can select from four springs that are still pumping out the soothing water as they have for thousands of years.

They include:

- **Chena Hot Springs.** Since the early 1900s, the resort has been a frequent destination for residents and visitors alike. Chena Hot Springs is about 60 miles away—at the end of the road that bears the same name. The hot springs are open daily every day of the year from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For overnight guests, hotel rooms for two plus swimming passes start at \$60 and cabins for two at \$45.

The grounds are dotted with ancient-looking mining equipment, rustic cabins, the lodge which includes a bar and restaurant, and the building that houses the swimming pools.

Outside, mineral springs bubble out of the ground into several ponds marked with signs warning visitors against a quick dip. Instead, there are two indoor pools with semi-cooled water, including a soaking pool which is about 110 degrees Fahrenheit and a large swimming pool at 90 degrees. For those who prefer the bubbly effect at 110 degrees, two swirling Jacuzzis are available.

Shower areas and locker rooms are adjacent to the pools, and swimming suits and towels may be rented for \$1. A day's swim costs \$4.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children and seniors. Infants are free and special rates are available for groups.



**CIRCLE HOT SPRINGS**—Even for a dog, the pace of life is slow at Circle Hot Springs, off the Steese Highway. Aside from an Olympic-size pool fed by the hot spring, the resort offers overnight accommodations for travelers in the renovated lodge.

(Staff photo by Dermot Cole)

Trails near the lodge are used for cross-country skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. There is also volleyball, horseshoe pitching and croquet.

For more information or reservations, call the Fairbanks office at 452-7867.

- **Arctic Circle Hot Springs.** This resort boasts an Olympic-size pool and mineral baths near a four-story Victorian style hotel that was built in 1930. At 137 miles north of Fairbanks on the Steese Highway, the resort managers grow many of their own fresh vegetables and fruits in large greenhouses heated by the springs.

Hotel rooms start at \$33 for singles up to \$85 for a deluxe suite which includes a jacuzzi bath. The fourth floor of the hotel is a hostel and cabins are available for groups from two to six people. All overnight rates include swimming privileges.

A trailer and camper park also is on the grounds for those who bring their own beds.

Fishing enthusiasts have plenty of neighboring lakes and creeks to choose from—all within hiking or driving distance. And gold panning is a favorite among the visitors.

For more information, write Arctic Circle Hot Springs, Central, Alaska 99730 or call 520-2205.

If you're without wheels, KAK Tours has a van that will hold six people and makes three roundtrips to Circle Hot Springs per week with an over-nighter at the hotel. The \$60 trip includes a stop to see a gold dredge on the way, and a stop for pie and coffee at the Old FE Mining Company on the return trip. For more information, call 488-2649 or write KAK Tours, SRB 70762-C, Fairbanks 99701.

- **Manley Hot Springs.** Manley was a busy mining district decades ago, and is now home to about 150 people in the summer and 60 in the winter. Manley water leaves the ground at about 139 degrees. It is the least developed of the springs, and is located about 165 miles northwest of

Fairbanks on the Elliott Highway.

The hotel owners have called the nearby bathhouse and concrete pool "primitive." Even so, they stay so busy in the summer, they have to make reservations to rent the pool at \$2 an hour.

The bathhouse and springs are conveniently located close to an airstrip in downtown Manley Hot Springs. Call 672-3171 for more information.

- **Melozi Hot Springs.** If you don't have your own airplane, you'll need to rent one to get to Melozi Hot Springs Lodge, some 200 miles northwest of Fairbanks. It's the most remote of the four springs and will accommodate up to eight people with family-style meals.

For information, write Melozi Hot Springs Lodge, Box 80562, Fairbanks 99708 or call 456-2652.



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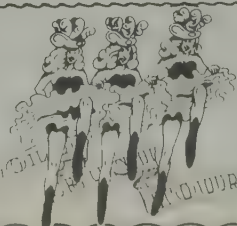
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# Hostel gives travelers great view

Backpackers, bicyclists and other tourists will find a youth hostel with a view of the Alaska Range and Mount McKinley awaiting in Fairbanks this summer.

The Alaska Dog Musers Association has agreed to share its facilities at Musers Field off Farmers Loop with the Fairbanks Youth Hostel from June 1 to Sept. 15.

Bill Hutchins, who's helping to organize this year's hostel, said although most travelers are expected to stay in tents, the dog musers association has agreed to let the hostel use the old musher's hall as an indoor dormitory for eight to 10 people. Kitchen facilities are also available.

Showers and toilet facilities in the new Musher's Hall will be shared with travelers while the building is open. An after-hours chemical toilet will also be provided.

On the average, the hostel will only serve 20 travelers at a time, although Hutchins said that number could increase to 30 for short periods.

Cost to the traveler for staying at the hostel is \$4.50 a night. To qualify for that price, a visitor must have a hostel membership which costs \$14 a year.

The dog musers association is being paid \$2,000 to let the hostel use the site, plus \$2 for every visitor that stays there. Call the visitors center at 456-5774 for more information.

To get to the hostel, catch the Farmers Loop bus at Fifth Ave. and Cushman St. For information on bus schedules call 456-3279.

The coldest temperature ever recorded in Alaska was 80 degrees below zero at Prospect Creek Camp on Jan. 23, 1971. The hottest temperature was 100 degrees at Fort Yukon on June 27, 1915.



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**MUSK OX**—Although they became extinct in Alaska, musk ox were re-introduced to the state more than 50 years ago and herds are located in several parts of the state. A few of the animals can be seen off Yankovich Road. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service photo)

## Get close to an ice age mammal

Once extinct in Alaska, the musk ox is making a comeback here.

Musk oxen roamed prehistoric Alaska during the ice age, but they disappeared by the mid to late 1800s. Forty of the animals, which look like smaller, wooly versions of buffalo, were imported from Greenland in the 1930s.

Those few have thrived and an estimated 1,000 of their descendants roam wild in small herds around the state, especially on Nunivak Island,

the Seward Peninsula and the North Slope.

A few domesticated musk oxen may be seen at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks large musk ox farm at 1 Mile Yankovich Road. Tours at the farm are offered Tuesdays at 2 p.m., but visitors may see the animals anytime. The weekly tours run from June 14 to Aug. 16.

Nine musk oxen, including a calf born this year, are kept in a fenced area at the farm.

At least three bulls will be visible from near a viewing platform, says Bob White, a professor of zoo physiology and nutrition at UAF. Reindeer, caribou, and moose also may be seen.

White, who is doing research on the musk ox here, said studies are being

done to determine how many musk oxen could be supported by potential ranges in Alaska. Research is also being done on the animals' basic nutritional requirements.

Although a few musk oxen are being hunted, one main interest in the animal is the "qiviut," the downy, ash brown underwool that musk ox produce.

A herd of domestic musk oxen is being raised in Unalakleet on Norton Sound, mostly for the wool. A herdsman combs off the underwool and it is shipped off to spinning mill and returned as yarn. A bull gives up to six pounds of qiviut a year.

More than 150 knitters work in villages to knit scarves, hats and other articles with traditional designs from Eskimo art.

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**LOTS TO EAT**—This 64-pound Alaska cabbage makes a good load in a wheelbarrow. Giant cabbages are one of the prime attractions of the Tanana Valley Fair and the Palmer Fair in August. (News-Miner file photo)

The farthest north supermarket in the United States is in Barrow, constructed at a cost of \$4 million and built on stilts because of permafrost hazards.

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# Find travel help under sod roof

The log cabin on the Chena River just off the Cushman Street Bridge in downtown Fairbanks is the Interior city's one-stop visitor information center.

The center helps as many as 800 people a day from all over the world find out about things to see and do in Fairbanks. Last summer 80,000 visitors stopped in for tips on hotels, campgrounds, brochures about the attractions Fairbanks has to offer and other helpful hints.

For more helpful hints about Fairbanks, call the visitors center at 456-5774. Or stop by the sod-roofed log cabin at 550 First Ave. next to the Cushman Street Bridge downtown.

Maps and visual displays inside the cabin acquaint you with what Fairbanks and the Interior of Alaska has to offer. You can also relax in the newly-landscaped park surrounding the cabin and bordering the Chena River.

The center distributes a free 56-page brochure listing accommodations, dining facilities, attractions and activities in Fairbanks. The color brochure is in English, German and Japanese.

Two people are at the visitor's center fulltime to answer questions about use of public lands. They will be able to provide information to boaters headed for Interior rivers.

In addition, wildlife films are being shown twice daily.

The center continually updates its Information Line at 456-INFO. You can call for a recorded message of what is going on in Fairbanks such as performances, films, sporting events, special events. The message will provide times, places and numbers to call for more information.

An Information Center is also staffed at Fairbanks International Airport to greet and aid visitors who arrive by air.

The center will be repairing its sod roof this summer, so visitors may have to be patient as the renovation is being completed.



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## Be prepared for anything on Bush trip

Imagine yourself thumping down on a dirt runway in a twin-engine cargo plane—jammed between a chattering old man and three sled dogs. That's travel in Alaska's bush.

It is not something a visitor wants to take lightly, but it can be a most rewarding way to see the 49th State. Major tours generally hit larger communities like Barrow, Kotzebue and Nome—these points with jet service are called Bush hubs—where all creature comforts can be looked after, but the smaller villages are an entirely different world. Thanks to the airplane, however, getting to them is not terribly difficult.

Some are served (through subcontractors) by major carriers such as Wien and Alaska Airlines, meaning you can book yourself all the way into the village by buying a ticket in Fairbanks.

To get into others, you may have to contact a small airline or charter service in Fairbanks, Anchorage, or one of the Bush hubs.

The best way to find them, even in Alaska, is to check the yellow pages, in the "Airline Companies" and "Aircraft Charter, Rental and Leasing Service" classifications. Many of the small operators advertise in the yellow pages of the Anchorage and Fairbanks telephone directories. In addition, most Bush hubs have telephone directories of their own, and you can find a flying service by checking the listings once you get there.

Also, most of Interior Alaska falls under the domain of Doyon Ltd., a corporation formed by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Doyon's headquarters is at 201 First Avenue in Fairbanks, telephone 452-4755, and Doyon can be consulted about tours in advance.

The Interior Village Association office at 126½ Minnie St. in Fairbanks, telephone 452-1601, also can provide good information for travelers.

Getting to an Alaskan village is the



**SEAL HARVEST**—Eskimos in Kotzebue haul a seal from the icy waters of the Bering Sea. In addition to eating the animal's meat, the eskimos use seal oil for cooking and the intestines to make waterproof clothing.

(Photo by Frank Whaley)

easy part. The difficulty comes in where you stay once you get there, how you feed yourself and how you get out.

A general guide is that you want to be as self-sufficient as possible. You can tour bush Alaska without a tent and sleeping bag, but having camping gear greatly increases your options and control over your destiny.

Since much of the land around Bush villages is owned by Native corporations, their permission may be required for camping. They can generally be contacted in Anchorage or Fairbanks, or in the Bush hub from which you launch yourself into one of the smaller villages.

Your chances of finding anything resembling a hotel in a Bush village are about 50-50. There won't be a Holiday Inn or a Hilton, but many small communities have a lodge of one sort

or another, even if it's only a villager who rents out a spare bedroom to visitors, and feeds them at the family table.

Restaurants are rare, too. Only the largest villages have even a coffee shop, and its hours generally will be short. The food at the stores will be expensive and the selection may be limited if the summer barge shipment

has not yet arrived, but generally you'll be able to find enough to survive on for a few days.

Once again, the air service that flies you into the village is the best source of information about accommodations.

Running water will commonly be available at a public facility. Many

(See BUSH, page 49)



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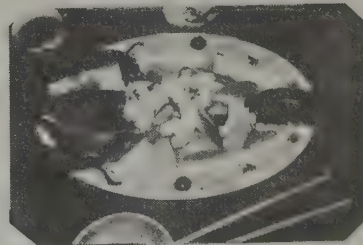
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# Rail line highballs to Anchorage

A leisurely trip on the Alaska Railroad is an excellent way to travel.

A unique feature of the railroad is the local train between Fairbanks and Anchorage which offers campers and track-side residents the chance to get on and off the train at various flag stops along the railroad.

The Alaska Railroad is operated by the Federal Railroad Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The State of Alaska is currently negotiating with the federal government to acquire the railroad.

High school students from the Fair-

banks School District Hutchison Career Center and the Anchorage School District Career Center are employed by ARR as hosts and hostesses aboard the train, answering questions and pointing out features for passengers. The tour guides have had extensive training in Alaska tourism, history and natural resources.

On the ride from Fairbanks to Anchorage, passengers watch from comfortable window seats as the countryside unfolds. The trip crosses a 700-foot steel bridge, one of the largest single span steel bridges in the

world and goes through the towns of Nenana, the coal mining town of Healy, Denali Park, Cantwell and Talkeetna.

For those wishing a non-stop to Denali Park or the fast train to Anchorage, the "express" leaves Fairbanks daily at 10:30 a.m.

It arrives in Denali Park at 1:55 p.m. and in Anchorage at 8 p.m. The same one-stop train leaves Anchorage daily at 8:30 a.m., arrives in Denali Park at 2:35 p.m. and in Fairbanks at 6 p.m.

The local train leaves Fairbanks Thursday and Sunday at noon and arrives in Anchorage at about 11 p.m. This train may make about 30 stops along the way. It returns to Fairbanks Wednesday and Saturday leaving Anchorage at 10 a.m.

The express train offers full breakfast, lunch and dinner service in the dining car. Self-service and ala carte orders are also available at the lunch counter/cafe. However, the second train only offers ala carte orders.

The cost of a roundtrip ticket from Fairbanks to Anchorage is \$139.50. For children 5 years of age and under 12 years of age, the fare is \$69.75. One stop-over is allowed per ticket without additional charge.

For more information or reservations call 465-4155 in Fairbanks.

## BUSH . . .

(Continued from page 48)

villages have a central water treatment building with showers, laundromat and other services built as part of a federal project in Alaska over the past decade.

Modern communications have spread to the Alaska Bush faster than most other amenities. Many villages now have local exchange telephone service, and even the smallest has at least one telephone, usually centrally located at the community hall, village store, or satellite earth station.

Alaska is served by a very good satellite telecommunications system, so don't be surprised if you can watch a live ball game on color TV or call your office on Madison Avenue directly from the village cafe.

Many small villages do not have a formal municipal government, and it's hard to find anyone who is "in charge." Additionally, in some villages, English is a second language to Indian and Eskimo dialects so there

may be something of a language barrier as well.

Your pilot is again the best source of advice and information. Beyond that, most villages have a school and a Public Health Service nurse or nurse's aide who can help visitors.

There also will usually be a local magistrate who presides over minor state legal matters in the tradition of a justice of the peace. Many towns have a "VPSO"—village public safety officer.

Game food is tempting to sample, but a visitor should remember that modern hygiene and food preparation have not taken over the Bush yet. Dried salmon "fish sticks" and other uncooked food carry the risk of numerous parasitic diseases, and even clear stream water may transmit parasites from the beavers and muskrats that live upstream.

Flush toilets are making their way only slowly into rural Alaska. Be prepared for outhouses and "honey buckets."

Keep in mind that life goes on at a different pace in rural Alaska and meeting schedules and deadlines is sometimes easier said than done.

The small airlines that have regular service will have fairly predictable schedules, although the plane that drops you off might not be back in that particular village for a week.

The average bush pilot, however, operates like a person who wears a calender on his wrist rather than a watch.

If a bush pilot drops you off on a lake and says he'll be back at 3 p.m. Saturday, be ready to go at noon but have dinner that can be prepared quickly in case he drops in right in the middle of the meal at 6 p.m. He'll probably arrive before 9 or 10, at least.

Bush pilots have a thousand things that can delay them for hours, or even a day or two. Take extra fuel and food, and a deck of cards. Don't plan on making any tight airline connections at the end of your weekend at Moose Nugget Lake.

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2:35 p.m. leaves Denali National Park

6 p.m. arrives Fairbanks

#### Local train

Leaves Fairbanks for Anchorage at noon Thursday and Sunday

Arrives Anchorage about 11 p.m.

Leaves Anchorage for Fairbanks 10 a.m. Wednesday and Saturday

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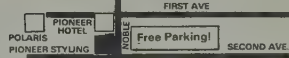
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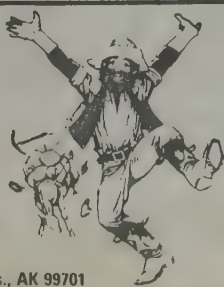
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**GOLDEN SPIKE**—In 90-degree heat, President Harding drove the golden spike for the Alaska Railroad on July 15, 1923. The town of Nenana is to reenact the scene this summer.

(Photo courtesy of Jack Coghill)

## Railroad celebrates 60 years of service

It was 60 years ago on July 15, 1923 that President Warren G. Harding made a three-day trip from Seward to Fairbanks and drove the golden spike marking completion of the Alaska Railroad in Nenana.

The city of Nenana celebrates the railroad's 60th anniversary July 16.

If you want to join in the 60th anniversary of the Alaska Railroad, take a trip to Denali Park or Anchorage. Find out more from the Railroad at 456-4155 or drop by the passenger depot at 280 North Cushman St.

The driving of the golden spike is to be reenacted, said Nenana Mayor Jack Coghill. And the mayor hopes Alaska Railroad manager Frank Jones and Gov. Bill Sheffield will be present.

The U.S. Congress in 1912 provided for the president to appoint a railroad commission to conduct an examination into the problems of traveling to Alaska. A second act, in March of 1914, authorized and directed the president to designate routes for railroad ties into the Territory, to connect one or more of the open harbors on the southern coast of Alaska to coal fields and agricultural lands.

In April 1915, President Woodrow Wilson selected a route for the railroad beginning at Seward and extending north 412 miles to a point on the Tanana River where Nenana is now located, with a branch line of 38 miles to the Matanuska coal fields. Later, it was decided to extend the main line to Fairbanks.

Construction of the railroad was started in 1915. The main line extends from Seward to Fairbanks for a distance of 470.3 miles.

Ten years ago, the city of Nenana held a reenactment of the gold spike ceremony. On that day in 1973, Federal Railroad Administrator John W. Ingram drove the second golden spike at the Nenana railroad bridge.

At those ceremonies, former Alaska Governor Walter Hickel said he knew of no U.S. government development project that has done more than the railway act of 1912 which authorized the President to build not more than 1,000 miles of railroad to open up Alaska.

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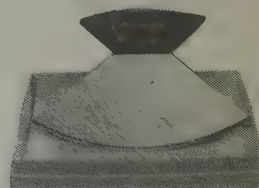
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# Dalton Highway gives rough ride

If you want to go above the Arctic Circle by motor vehicle, the only way to get there is on the dusty Dalton Highway.

Opened to public travel in 1981, the highway is now open year-around as far as Dietrich Camp, which is about 280 miles north of Fairbanks and 200 miles south of the Arctic Ocean.

Formerly known as the North Slope Haul Road, it was built to haul goods and equipment to the oil field at Prudhoe Bay. The gravel-surfaced road is named after James Dalton, who was active in petroleum exploration and development.

The road begins at 73.5 Mile Elliott Highway, north of Fairbanks, then extends north 416 miles to Prudhoe Bay. Public travel is permitted only as far as the check point at Disaster Creek just north of Dietrich Camp, 210 miles north of the Elliott Highway junction.

North of the Disaster Creek checkpoint, industrial traffic is allowed by permit, which can be obtained from the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, phone 452-1911.

Construction of the Dalton Highway began April 29, 1974. Designed as a service road for use during construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, the road is 28 feet wide, varying in depth from 3 to 6 feet. It required 25 million cubic yards of gravel and took 5 months to complete. The gravel is underlain in some sections by thick sheets of plastic foam insulation to prevent thawing of the permafrost and subsequent breakdown of the highway. The road was turned over to the state in 1978 after pipeline construction was completed.

A trip north on the Dalton Highway is not to be taken lightly. Road conditions are generally poor. The road is

Recorded road condition reports from the Alaska Department of Transportation for the Dalton Highway and other roads can be obtained by dialing 456-ROAD. The department's business number is 452-1911.

rough and dusty and heavy truck traffic can be expected.

Gasoline, diesel fuel, tire repair, wrecker service, snacks and emergency communications are available at only two locations, the Yukon Crossing at Mile 56.6 and Coldfoot at Mile 173.6.

The road is heavily traveled by trucks hauling goods and equipment north; industrial and commercial traffic has amounted to more than 2,000 vehicles per month in recent years, making the Dalton Highway the most heavily-traveled of all gravel-surfaced roads in Alaska.

The recreational motorist should be prepared to give way to heavily laden trucks, recognizing their limited braking ability and the soft shoulders and sometimes narrow, rough road surfaces.

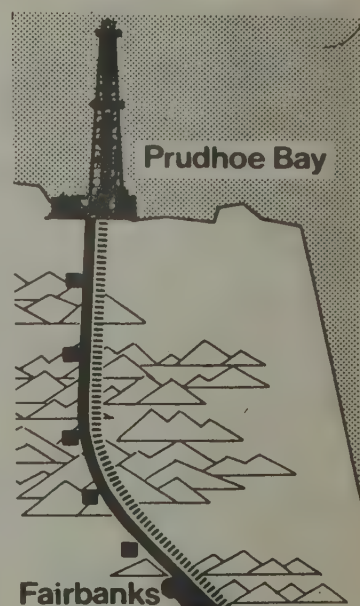
Despite these cautions, however, the road is unique in its scenic beauty, wildlife and recreational opportuni-

ties. Watch for sheep, bears, wolves, foxes, birds, and Arctic wild flowers.

The trans-Alaska pipeline, with its silver insulation covering, can be seen from many points.

If you decide to drive the Dalton Highway, the Bureau of Land Management, which manages most of the land along the highway, makes the following recommendations:

- Use headlights at all times.
- Protect headlights and windshields from flying rocks with wire screens.
- Be prepared to pay cash (no credit cards) for fuel, wrecker service or tire repair, at prices substantially higher than in town.
- Carry drinking water, as safe drinking water is not available the full length of the road.
- Never stop your vehicle on the roadway. Stop only where turnouts are available.
- Observe the 45 mph speed limit. Recognize that some curves are flat and are designed for only 40 mph.
- State law prohibits the feeding of wild animals.
- Hunting with firearms is prohibited within the corridor for five miles on either side of the right-of-way.



**ROAD ROUTE**—The Dalton Highway runs alongside the trans-Alaska oil pipeline across northern Alaska.



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# Ice watchers love Nenana in the spring

By JEAN A. MURRAY  
Correspondent

NENANA—The unknowing get confused. Is it the Ne-na-na on the Ta-na-na or Ne-na-na on the Ta-na-na? Eventually, they learn it is the un-rhythmic Ne-na-na on the Ta-na-na. But, no matter. The small town of Nenana (Athabaskan for "between two rivers") at the confluence of the Tanana and Nenana rivers has provided a strong beat in the rhythm of Alaska's history.

In 1903 there were about 20 cabins in the Athabaskan village below Tortella hill on the north side of the Tanana River when Jimmy Duke established his trading post opposite it, close by the new U.S. Signal Corps telegraph station. Duke became the supplier for the trappers, prospectors and miners and the woodcutters who, in turn, supplied the wood for the river steamers that traveled to Fairbanks.

The men who spent the spring of 1906 with Duke, Gunny Sack Jack, Jones the Woodcutter, Adolph Nelson, Oliver Lee and the Johnson brothers originated the famous guessing game, the Nenana Ice Classic. The lottery participants attempt to guess the exact time the Tanana River ice will go—an exhilarating spectacle that signals the arrival of spring for Alaskans.

Oliver Lee won that first year, but we are not told how much or what day. The tripod and tripped-clock timing

system used today were first introduced in 1918.

Many people date the beginning of the lottery from then. This year the ice went out at 6:37 p.m. on April 29. The winning tickets paid \$133,000.

The same spring that the men down at Dukes' were betting on break-up, the Episcopal boarding school at St. Mark's Mission, about a mile upriver, was finishing its first year. It provided an education for Native children from the villages along Interior rivers but it closed in 1955 after public schools opened in the villages. Several former students still live in Nenana.

(See ICE WATCHERS, page 53)



**TRANSPORTATION CENTER**—Nenana is a key city for getting shipments to the Bush. Railroad shipments for towns along the Yukon and Tanana Rivers are unloaded here and barged to their destinations.

(Staff photo by Jimmy Bedford)

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**In Nenana**  
P.O. Box 419, Nenana, AK 99760





# ICE WATCHERS . . .

(Continued from page 52)

na. Veteran State Senator John Sackett of Ruby is probably the school's most eminent student.

A post office was established in 1908 but the construction of the Alaska Railroad brought the greatest change to Nenana when the town became its northern headquarters.

In August 1916, townsite lots were auctioned for as high as \$1,500 each and people began raising tents and building cabins. The estimates of the population at the height of construction vary considerably, from 1,200 to 5,000. But it is certain that many workers and businesses moved into the area.

The city seemed to spring up overnight; a hospital, a newspaper, a school, even adult education classes. Before long, a narrow gauge railroad, an extension of the Tanana Valley Railroad, permitted regular travel between Nenana and Fairbanks.

It must have been a humiliation for Fairbanksans when Nenana's basketball team beat all the teams in Fair-

banks during the winter of 1920. The construction engineers had played college basketball. The March 25, 1920 editorial in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner expressed the fear that Nenana might surpass Fairbanks as the major Interior city.

But it never happened. Railroad construction officially ended when President Warren G. Harding drove a golden spike at a ceremony before a large crowd in Nenana on July 4, 1923. Within a few years the town's population plummeted to less than 300 people where it remained until the early 1970s. About 400 live in the town now.

There have been other highlights in Nenana's history.

It was a Nenana resident who was the first person to climb the taller south peak of Mount McKinley.

Hudson Stuck, Episcopal Archdeacon of the Yukon, must have studied the mountain many times as he glided through the wilderness by dog sled in winter and boat in summer visiting the missions in his charge, including Nenana. He persuaded trap-

per Harry Karstens and two Athabaskan Indians from Nenana, Walter Harper and Robert Tatum, to climb the mountain with him. Stuck encouraged Walter Harper to be the first one to reach the summit on June 7, 1913.

Karstens became the first superintendent of McKinley Park in 1917. Nenana was Park Headquarters until 1922 when it was moved to within park boundaries to combat poachers.

The great dogteam "diphtheria serum race" to Nome in January 1925 started from Nenana. The first of 20 drivers, "Wild Bill" Shannon, gathered the packages of serum from the train from Anchorage, and dashed to Tolovana, 52 miles away, on the initial leg of the 674-mile trip. It ended when Gunnar Kaasen and his lead dog, Balto, arrived in Nome 127½ hours later. Delivery of the mail over the same trail usually took 30 days.

Not only has Nenana been a part of many events but two of its residents have made lasting contributions of political leadership.

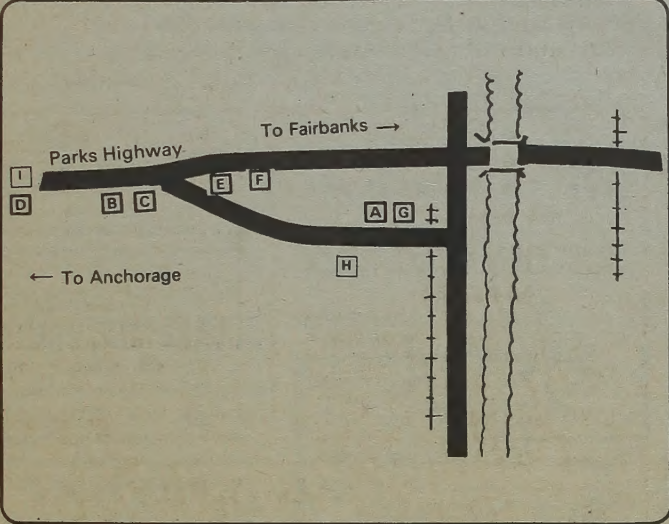
In 1959 when Alaska became a state, it was promised over 100 million acres of federal land. However, when the state indicated it was going to set aside land in the Minto Flats, a productive hunting area northwest of Nenana, Alfred Ketzler, a resident of Nenana and an Athabaskan, became disturbed. These were traditional hunting lands of the Indians. Ketzler mobilized the efforts of other interior Natives and coastal Eskimos. They provided the nucleus of leadership behind the legal actions which ultimately led to the Alaska Native Land Claims Act in 1971.

Jack Coghill, son of early merchant William Coghill, is a former state legislator, a former state Republican Party chairman and a delegate to the state's constitutional convention.


Currently his energies have been invested in promoting the Nenana Agricultural project which includes several thousand acres of land west of Nenana.

The years after the completion of the railroad were calm ones, except for the periodic natural disasters that seem to mark the history of many towns (Floods in 1917, 1948, 1961, 1967 and a fire in 1932).

# NENANA



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# Roll on with the dog mushers

Visitors to Interior Alaska no longer have to come in the middle of winter to get a taste of dog mushing.

Demonstrations on the care and handling of dog teams and a slide show on Alaska's major dog mushing events top the list of summer activities conducted by the Alaska Dog Mushers Association at the club's race grounds located just 15 minutes from Fairbanks at 4 Mile Farmer's Loop.

From the first of June through early September, the mushers operate a dog mushing information center at the ADMA mushers hall, an attractive 3,200 square-foot log structure built in the shape of two off-set squares using the unique "Swedish cove" technique.

The mushers hall, which is operated in the summer by local musher Guy Blankenship, includes a museum, gift shop and snack bar which is open to the public free of charge from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Museum attractions include a display of various dog sleds and ADMA race trophies, photographs of former mushing champions and displays of several historical items including a freight sled once used by the late Jeff Studdert for whom the race grounds are named. Gift shop items include art works with mushing themes done by local artists, and snack bar offerings will include barbecued salmon when the fish are in season.

The dog demonstrations and slide show are offered daily starting at 8 p.m., and the admission fee is \$7 per person.

Blankenship, a four-time North American Freight Race champion and the 12th-place finisher in the 1983 Iditarod Trail Race from Anchorage to Nome, uses his own dogs to demonstrate the care and handling of a dog team. Visitors will have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and take photographs. The slide show lasts about 45 minutes and includes nearly 300 color slides of major sled dog races in Alaska, including the 1,000-mile Iditarod and the North American Championships.

Fairbanks is a center of mushing activity during the winter months as many of the state's top dog drivers live in the area. Among them are current North American Champion Gareth Wright of Fairbanks, 10-time World Champion George Attla of North Pole, current Women's World Champion Jane Cosgrove of North Pole and four-time Iditarod Champion Rick Swenson of Manley.

For more information on any activities at the race grounds or to arrange special demonstrations through Blankenship, call the mushers hall at 452-MUSH.

## Fish derbies are a sure bet

Six major fishing derbies are planned around Alaska this summer, with most of them hosted by local business groups.

Competition is keen, but check the

rules for the individual contests to determine if there are special prizes for tagged fish.

Make sure you hold a current fishing license, and pick up a copy of state sport fishing rules.

- Ketchikan King Salmon Derby, May 28-29 (Memorial Day weekend); June 4-5; June 11-12.
- Petersburg Salmon Derby, June 10-12 and June 17-19.
- Homer Halibut Derby, entire month of July.
- Juneau's Golden North Salmon Derby, Aug. 5-7.
- Valdez Silver Salmon Derby, Aug. 6-28.
- Seward Silver Salmon Derby, Aug. 13-21.

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# Gold award recognizes workers

If you met a tour guide or hotel clerk that particularly helped to make your trip enjoyable, you might want to nominate them for the Alaska Visitor Association's "Heart of Gold" award.

The statewide program is to recognize people in the tourism industry who provide the warmest welcome to visitors to Alaska, says Ralph Nestor, of the University of Alaska's Travel Industry Management Program, who heads the program.

From May 1 through October 1, posters with attached self-addressed postcards for nominations will be located throughout communities in Alaska. Visitors are encouraged to mail in as many nominations as they wish by filling out the card and dropping it in the mail.

If there aren't any cards available, simply write your nomination on a slip of paper and mail it to: "Heart of Gold," Pouch E24K, Juneau, AK 99811.

According to Nestor, the hospitality awareness theme "We Have a Heart of Gold" was created to recognize the historical appeal of Alaska's Gold rush past and to imply that Alaskans welcome visitors with friendly attitudes, provide special service and share their state with visitors.

Employees who are nominated will be honored by public recognition of their efforts. Each person nominated will receive a "Heart of Gold" pin and be eligible for gold prospector coin prizes.

According to Nestor, local Chambers of Commerce, AVA chapters, Convention and Visitors Bureaus and in some cases individual businesses are being asked to coordinate distribution of program materials and information within their towns and to use "Heart of Gold" as the central theme of their local pride and awareness campaigns.

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